WORLD / A20

Hezbollah chief Nasrallah hailed new hero of Islamic world

BUSINESS /B1

Peso hits 4-month high: 51.21 to $1; exports post double-digit growth in June

METRO / A17

POEA orders closure of 18 travel agencies in Metro Manila

LIVING STARS / G4

Glam & glitter what they wore to Urian awards

Latest terror scare like '95 plot hatched in RP

THE PLOT WAS STUNNING IN ITS MURDEROUS ambition: Use liquid explosives to bomb a dozen commercial flights over the ocean.

When it was exposed, the US Federal Aviation Administration ordered pat-down searches of all passengers and airline employees going onto planes and barred containers of liquids, except medicines and sealed baby formula, from the cabin.

LATEST/ A13

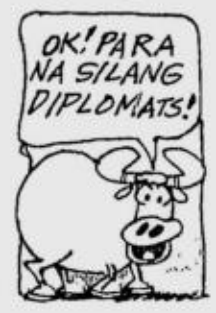
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, August 11, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 244 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Konnichiwa,' 'ni hao:' Gotcha in 5 languages

By Tarra V. Quismundo



IF YOU GET PULLED over in Makati City, expect to hear the traffic enforcer say "hello" in five languages (including Filipino and English) be-

KONNICHI/ A4

ON DUTY at Manchester Airport, a British policeman, traditionally unarmed, is now fully armed. AP

21 ARRESTED IN ENGLAND

UK cops stop plot to blow up planes

LONDON—BRITISH AUthorities on Thursday said they had thwarted a terrorist plot to simultaneously blow up several aircraft in flight to the United States using explosives smuggled in hand luggage, averting what police described as "mass murder on an unimaginable scale."

Officials raised security to its highest level—suggesting a terrorist attack might be imminent—and banned hand-carried luggage on all trans-Atlantic flights.

Huge crowds formed at security barriers as officials searching for explosives barred nearly every form of liquid outside of baby formula.

"This was to be a simultaneous attack on multiple targets, targeting US-bound aircraft," said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

The extreme measures at one of the world's largest aviation hubs sent ripples throughout the world. Heathrow airport was closed to most flights from Europe.

The US government responded by raising its threat assessment to its highest level for commercial flights from Britain to the United States amid fears the plot had not been completely crushed.

Even so, police were confident they

UK COPS/ A13

BEDLAM at London's Heathrow airport after flights were cancelled after a plot to blow up planes flying between the United States and the United Kingdom was foiled by police and security services in England on Thursday. Officials said the alleged terrorist plot aimed to "bring down a number of aircraft through mid-flight explosions" using devices smuggled in hand luggage.

OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN: OFW Victoria Aydalla flies home from Lebanon aboard the plane piloted by her employer, Capt. Rolando Coccia di Ferro.

JESS YUSON

Special flight: OFW gets to sit in cockpit

By Nikko Dizon

SHE FLEW OUT OF LEBANON AND back to her motherland on a flight piloted by her Lebanese-Italian employer.

It was, Ma. Victoria Aydalla happily found out, one of the perks of being the househelp of Capt. Rolando Coccia di Ferro for a year.

She sat in the plane's cockpit during takeoff and landing, enjoying not only a front-seat view of the

SPECIAL/ A9

Naia on alert; bans liquids on US flights

By Nikko Dizon

LIQUID BEVERAGES, SHAMPOO, SUNtan lotion, creams, toothpaste, hair gel and other items of soft or fluid consistency are prohibited in the hand-carried luggage of passengers bound for the United States, the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) said.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) was placed on heightened security alert at 7 o'clock last night just hours after British authorities uncovered a trans-Atlantic terrorist plot that disrupted flights at London airports *(See banner story)*.

These items should be packed in the passengers' checked-in baggage, the Miaa said.

The advisory took effect immediately.

Two Philippine Airlines (PAL) and two Continental Airlines flights were bound for the US last night, the Miaa said. Two North-

NAIA/ A13

PALPARAN'S LAW

N. Ecija folk in mad scramble to get 'cedula'

By Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

SAN JOSE CITY, NUEVA ECIJA—RESIdents here are lining up at the City Hall compound by the thousands to get a "cedula" (community tax certificate or CTC), the document that soldiers are demanding from people here as they search for communist rebels.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER showed that many residents of the different barangays in the Science City of Muñoz and Lupao town were also applying for CTCs.

"[The rush was] unexpected. We ran out of forms . . . [so] we borrowed from nearby cities. We went to (the Bureau of Internal Revenue) in Metro Manila to get hundreds of pads of the CTC form," said city treasurer Luisa Miranda.

Since Monday, at least 32,000 residents have applied for CTCs in the city.

Miranda said even students below 18 years old were lining up to get a residence certificate.

"The soldiers were asking us to present our CTC," a resident told the INQUIRER. "If

N. ECJIA FOLK/ A7

GMA appeal to NPA: Don't attack Mayon troops

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESterday appealed to the communist New People's Army to desist from mounting attacks in the midst of the government's relief effort for some 40,000 residents evacuated from the rumbling Mayon volcano.

Ms Arroyo saw off a Philippine National Railways train that left the Buendia station for Legazpi City carrying P10 million worth of relief goods—mostly confiscated by the customs bureau for having been misdeclared—for the Mayon evacuees.

She said the train would ferry supplies as often as necessary and would transport evacuees who wanted to come to Manila.

The President, who said she would visit the evacuees tomorrow, appealed to the guerrillas not to delay or attack the train. "The NPA should not cause trouble," said Ms Arroyo.

Greg Bañares, the pseudonym used by the spokesperson of the National Democratic Front-New People's Army in the Bicol region, yesterday confirmed the NPA attack on the Army headquarters in Daraga, but said it is far from the Mayon

GMA'S APPEAL/ A9

EDWIN BACASMAS

ARMY Private First Class Efren Nahial of the 65th Infantry Battalion flees from the onrushing lava flow at Bonga gully, Barangay Bonga, Legazpi City. Soldiers patrol the forest trails at the foot of Mayon volcano to track down farmers who refuse to leave their land.

No 'load': Why cops did not catch killers

By Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

THE VANS USED BY THE GUNMEN WHO wounded Dr. Chandu Claver, a Bayan Muna leader doing medical work among the poor of Kalinga, and killed his wife on July 31 were able to pass through two police checkpoints unchallenged as they fled the scene of the ambush.

The reason: The policemen who gave chase to the armed men had no cellular phone credits to either text or call those manning the two checkpoints to stop the two fleeing Delica vans, according to a fact-finding mission.

The mission, conducted by Claver's colleagues in the Health Alliance of Democracy (HEAD) and Health Action for Human Rights, said the chase stopped at Barangay Rizal in Tabuk town, a few kilometers from the crime scene in a school zone in Barangay Bulanao.

"The police later explained their in-

NO LOAD/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains which may trigger flashfloods and landslides over the western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE PAGASA

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Foreign investments up – BSP

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTments to the Philippines surged by 52.6 percent in the first five months to $743 million versus a year ago as foreign investors snapped up opportunities in the automotive and electronic industries.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that for the month of May alone, the net FDI windfall amounted to $244 million versus zero in the same period last year. This was despite the selldown on Asian emerging market assets which affected portfolio inflows during the month.

Unlike portfolio investments which are more volatile, FDI flows represent investments in brick-and-mortar businesses that are usually capital- and labor-intensive such as those spent in building new factories, call centers, power plants, mining ventures or other enterprises.

"The improvement in the current level of FDI flows was achieved on the back of the country's improving macroeconomic fundamentals including higher first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 5.5 percent and better-than-expected fiscal position following surpluses realized in April and May and decelerating inflation rate," Tetangco said in a press statement.

The BSP chief said the surge in FDI flows from January to May was due to the reversal of the "other capital" account to a surplus of $402 million from a net outflow of $63 million in the same period last year.

The "other capital" accounts refer to inter-company borrowing or lending between foreign principals and their local subsidiaries and branches or affiliates in the Philippines.

"During the period, the automotive and electronic industries, in particular, benefited from these intercompany account transactions," Tetangco said.

HOME FAIR

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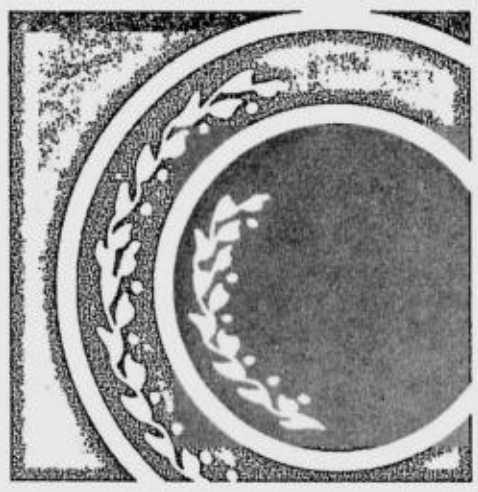

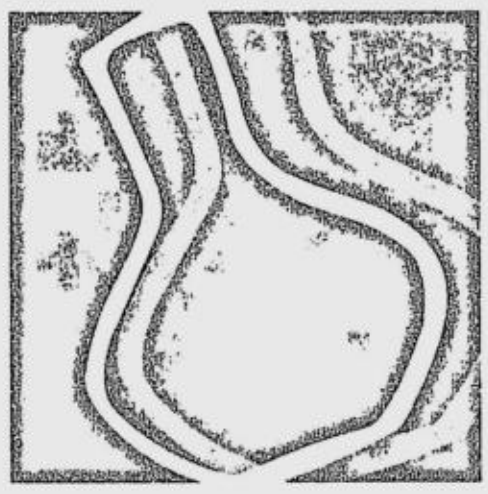

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Impeach case dead in 6 days, say GMA allies

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza

ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN DECLARED TO BE sufficient in form, the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo is still "slated for the deathbed."

House Majority Leader Prospero C. Nograles yesterday told reporters the chamber's leadership was out to dispose of the latest impeachment complaint against the President in the "next few days," as he maintained that the congressmen needed to focus on their priority agenda.

This could mean the last impeachment hearing could be conducted by the House committee on justice as early as Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

Administration Rep. Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City said the opposition was "just trying to prolong the life of their dying bid."

"Though the impeachment complaint's form was declared sufficient, it is still slated for the deathbed. Impeachment is a numbers game and we have yet to see the minority with the required numbers to push their impeachment bid," Domogan said.

Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano averred that Malacañang was running the show.

"It looks like they (the administration's allies in Congress) are afraid the people will hear the evidence. Are they not even curious why Malacañang wants the sudden death of the complaint?" Cayetano said.

Minority Leader Francis Escudero appealed to the majority not to rush the proceedings.

Unanimous choice

"It should not be unduly rushed or (even) delayed. And in any case, they should allow the presentation of evidence before voting (on its substance). The complaint must be acted upon on its merits, not on a mere technicality," he said.

In a unanimous vote last Wednesday night, the members of the justice committee ruled the eighth impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, lodged by the Black and White Movement, was sufficient in form.

The seven complaints filed earlier were deemed to have been lodged within the one-year period during which a new impeachment complaint is barred. This is the second year impeachment complaints were filed against the President. The eighth complaint will face its next test on sufficiency of substance when the impeachment hearing resumes on Tuesday.

The vote on form came after two hearings characterized by tumultuous debates on procedure that, at one point, nearly triggered a scuffle between administration Rep. Benasing Macarambon and opposition stalwart Rep. Rodolfo Plaza.

Tuesday's debate became heated after the minority called on congressmen who benefited from the P728-million fertilizer fund distributed by the administration during last year's campaign period purportedly to boost Ms Arroyo's election chances to inhibit themselves from the impeachment hearings.

The majority had ruled the justice committee had no power to force its members to inhibit themselves from the hearings.

It was House Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul del Mar who moved for the early determination on the complaint's form, saying "this is an issue the majority and minority could agree on."

'Last year's script'

"I believe it is obvious the complaint has satisfied the requirement of sufficiency in form," he said, pointing out the complaint had been duly verified, contained resolutions of endorsement and complied with the format prescribed by the House.

Cayetano noted the majority was following last year's "script" which was used to dispose of the three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

And just like last year, Cayetano said, the majority would declare the new complaint insufficient in substance.

Sufficiency in both form and substance are prerequisites for an impeachment complaint to prosper.

Nograles said the House "may not need six (session) days as prescribed by Malacañang to get rid" of the impeachment complaint.

He predicted the justice committee could wrap up the impeachment hearings and submit a recommendation to the plenary by the end of the month.

"So maybe this will be voted upon on the floor before the month of August ends. Maybe it will be finished sooner than later," he said.

He underscored the need for the House to buckle down to work and concentrate on several pending measures, including the supplemental budget for 2006 and the P500-million repatriation fund for the Filipino workers in Lebanon.

Rice gene resistant to flood discovered

RESEARCHERS IN THE PHILIPPINES and the United States have isolated a gene that will enable rice to survive flooding, it was announced yesterday.

The breakthrough—which could improve harvests for 70 million of the world's poorest people—was announced in a statement from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Laguna.

The statement said a team of researchers at IRRI and the University of California had isolated the gene that will enable the cereal to survive while completely submerged.

"The discovery allows for the development of new rice varieties that can withstand flooding, thus overcoming one of agriculture's oldest challenges and offering relief to millions of poor rice farmers around the world," the statement said.

"Although rice thrives in standing water, like all crops it will die if completely submerged for more than a few days.

"The development and cultivation of the new varieties are expected to increase food security for 70 million of the world's poorest people," the statement added.

Pamela Ronald, a rice geneticist, said: "Globally, rice is the most important food for humans.

"Each year, millions of small farmers in the poorest areas of the world lose their entire crops to flooding," she said.

"Our research team anticipates that these newly developed rice varieties will help ensure a more dependable food supply for poor farmers and their families."

Rice is the primary food for more than three billion people around the world, according to IRRI.

Some 25 percent of the global rice crop is grown in lowland plots that are prone to seasonal flooding. *AFP*

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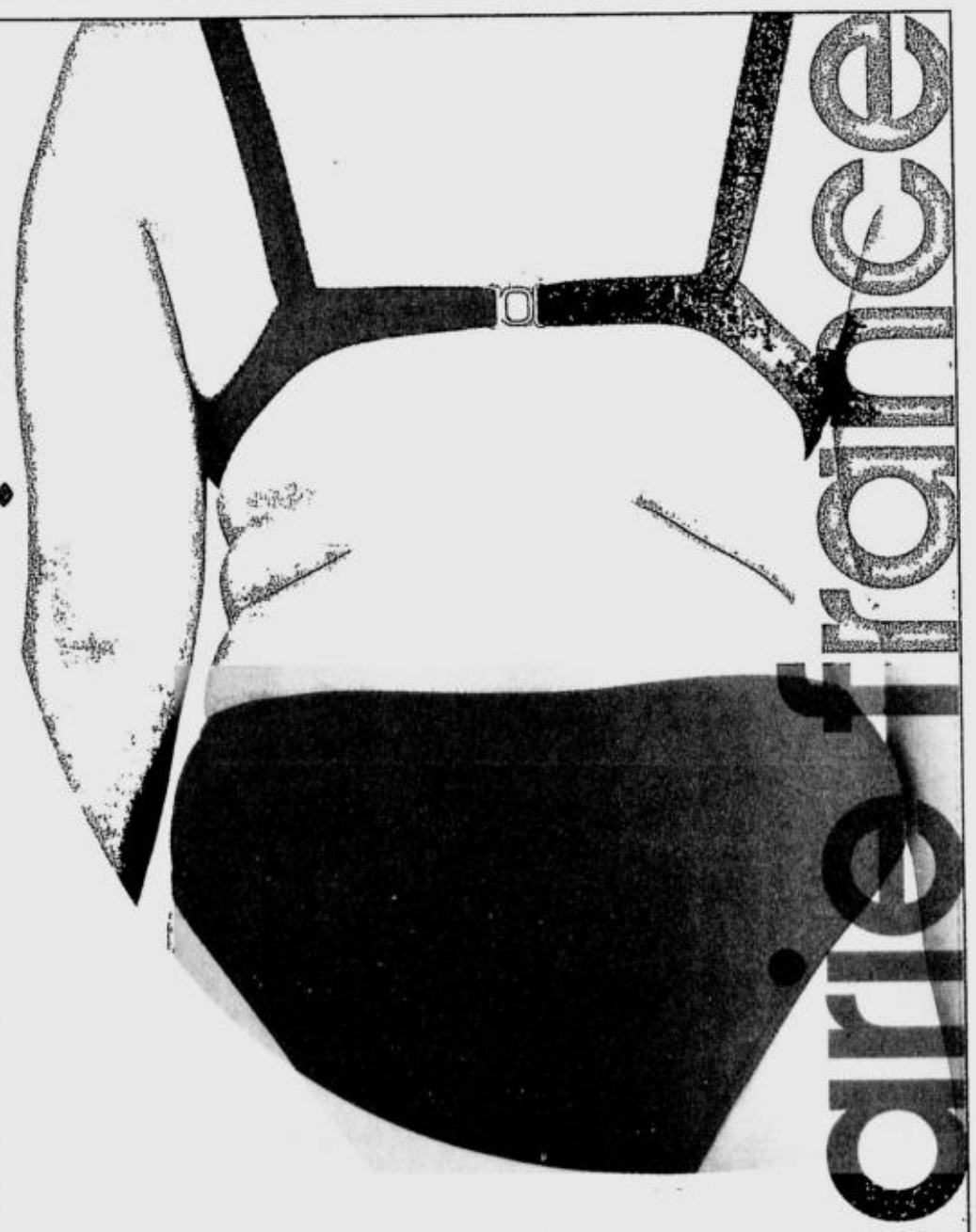

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John Gokongwei: US system not for Asians

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JOHN GOKONGWEI IS ALL FOR tinkering with the government system and opening up the economy to foreign investors if these measures could provide the spark that would enable the country to catch up with its more affluent neighbors.

"Charter change is a good thing," said one of the country's top industrialists, referring specifically to moves by President Macapagal-Arroyo to adopt the parliamentary system. "You can change presidents without a revolution."

Gokongwei, who turns 80 years old today, has had a front-row view of the Philippine economy through its ups and downs since the end of World War II.

He said in an interview with the INQUIRER that the parliamentary system was working well in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.

"I think we're the only country that followed the American system," said Gokongwei.

Gokongwei doubted the US presidential system had been a good fit for an Asian country like the Philippines.

"It's like what President Bush has been saying about bringing democracy to Iraq. But what's happening there is much worse than before he came in. The Americans just don't learn their lesson," said Gokongwei.

This is why Gokongwei wants the country to take a role model from Asia, probably Taiwan or China.

He stressed that he had no plans to actively endorse constitutional amendments. He said that this was a decision that should be made by each Filipino voter.

Changing the government system would alter the country's brand of politics which Gokongwei said "has affected, to a degree, the economy."

"If we had only done what Taiwan did 40 years ago and what China did 20 years ago. We could have done it in 1945. Now, it looks like it's too late, but there is still time," said Gokongwei.

Beyond Coca-Cola

"We did not develop any industry beyond Coca-Cola. We had some textiles and shoes and they were completely obliterated. How many business people put in their money in an industry? Can you name five? None, you can't even name one. In real estate you can name 10. That's my point," said Gokongwei.

He noted that the few Filipinos who had the resources to go big in any industry settled for the less risky real estate business with its promise of stable income from rent.

Gokongwei said the Philippines missed its chance in the last 60 years to develop its economy. He lamented that the country's Southeast Asian neighbors had left it far behind.

"We had the same per capita as Thailand 20 years ago, now they are two and half times bigger than us. Malaysia is four times bigger and Indonesia which had half our per capita then is now our equal. In five to six years, I think Vietnam will match or even surpass us," said Gokongwei.

"Everybody else is passing us by, that is what worries me," he said.

Foreign equity

More than changing the political landscape, Gokongwei was excited about proposals to lift foreign equity restrictions in the economy.

"It's hard to open up the economy without amending the Constitution. I agree that mining and real estate should be opened to everybody because you need foreign capital to help any country develop its economy. Look at China, it is getting a lot of direct foreign investments," Gokongwei said.

He said the country needed investors, like his company JG Summit Holdings, willing to bet on local industries to make the Philippines a tiger economy.

Quirino is his guy

Although he refused to give his assessment on the performance of any of the Presidents since 1945, Gokongwei was generous in his praise of President Elpidio Quirino and his economic vision.

"Honestly, Qurino had the right economic policies at the time when he put up the dams (for electricity) like Ambuklao and pushed for the country's industrialization. His policies were good; he was the first to see the country's need to build up its own power because we don't have enough money for oil.

"Up to now, we're always short of power and he already knew that back then in 1947. Unfortunately, he had this problem about the P5,000 golden *arinola* (chamber pot)," said Gokongwei. "I'm not saying he was the best president, I'm just saying I liked his policies."

So would this country be better run by a businessman?

"I don't know. I think it should be run by a good man, intelligent, willing to take risks. You have to know your resources and use them," he said.

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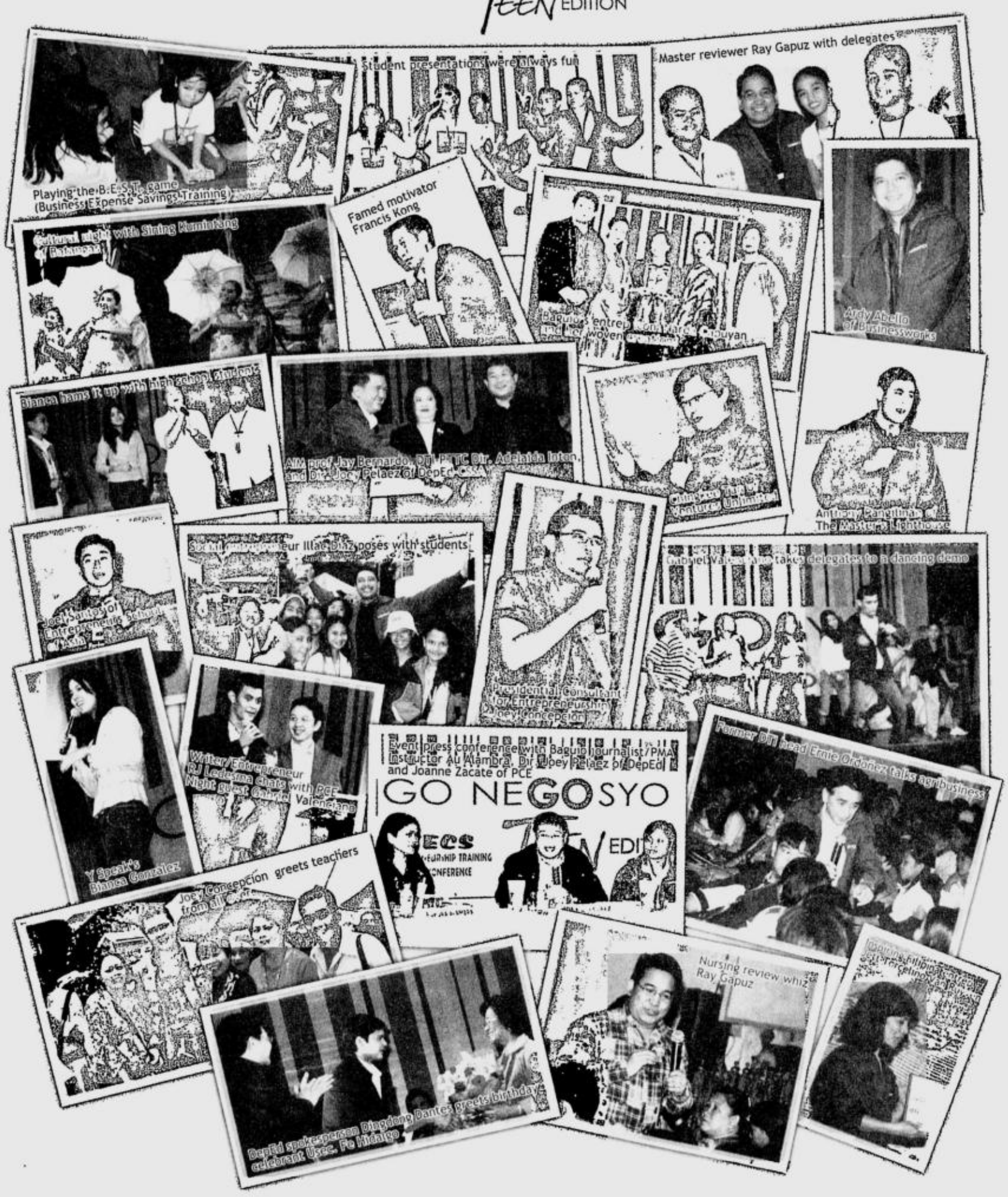

We thank the 2,000 delegates from high schools nationwide who attended the first ever GO NEGOSYO TEEN EDITION training and conference in Baguio City last July 27-30, 2006. May your enthusiasm and youthful spirit inspire you to build a better vision for the future as you prepare to become the next generation of successful Filipino entrepreneurs.

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'Konnichiwa ...

From page A1

fore handing you a violation ticket.

Thanks to a half-day training course initiated by the city government, select officers of the Department of Public Services (DPS) can now say basic greetings in Japanese (*"Konnichiwa!* License, please."), Mandarin (*"Ni hao!* You beat the red light!") and Korean (*"Ahnyahng!* Please step out of the vehicle.").

The new skill is a distinct advantage, according to DPS field inspector Renato Escotido, 39.

"It has helped us a lot because whenever we apprehend foreigners here, we get to show our respect for them by greeting them in their own language. So instead of them getting mad, they smile and ask us where we learned the language," said Escotido, who has been on the job for 20 years.

Crash course

Escotido and 34 other tenured DPS traffic enforcers and field inspectors hurdled the crash course at the Makati City Hall two weeks ago—the first in a series of basic foreign language training that the city government is offering its frontline employees.

The class was conducted for free by Talkshop, a private training center that offers customized courses in communication and culture.

"We were excited when we were told about the training. Now, when I am on the street and I am apprehending a Korean, he is surprised that I can speak his language, and he is no longer conscious about talking with me because he speaks only a little English," said Nonito Bugaring, 41, now on his second decade with the DPS.

The crash course, crafted after consultations between Talkshop and local officials, included the three languages because of Makati's considerable Japanese, Chinese and Korean populations, said Vissia Marie Aldon, head of the city's Human Resource Development Office.

The staples of the program are basic greetings and courtesy expressions such as "Good morning," "Good afternoon," "Good evening," "How are you," "I'm fine," "Thank you," "Goodbye," "You're welcome," "May I know your name," "Excuse me" and "I'm sorry."

Business center

"I'd like Makati to be different," Aldon told the INQUIRER, adding:

"It's the business center, so we have many foreigners and a big expatriate population. Our traffic officers are not there just to direct traffic but also to assist people. Learning some foreign words will help them approach foreigners better."

Aldon said those chosen for the crash course were the same DPS officers who went through personality development training some two years ago.

The first batch, composed of team leaders who had been working with the public safety office for at least 20 years, were put through the new program as a continuation of the lessons they had learned on proper posture, decorum and conversation.

"I believe it is dignifying for them. I want them to love their job. And our traffic enforcers can give the city a good image by approaching traffic violators with respect," Aldon said.

Confidence

For traffic enforcer Ronel Abdao, the training was a great confidence booster.

Abdao said that in the past, he would be at a loss whenever he approached foreign traffic violators, like Koreans, who could speak only "small English."

"At least now, I can greet them in Korean. That way, arguments are minimized," he said.

Aldon said the city personnel office will schedule foreign language crash courses monthly for the rest of the DPS' 500 traffic enforcers.

Employees assigned at City Hall's tax, permits and fees payment counters will also be required to take the course in batches as part of the city government's continuing personnel development program.

"It makes us proud that the city government is giving us this much value. It just makes us happier doing this job," Escotido said.

Senators to hale Palace to SC anew on EO 464

By TJ Burgonio

SENATORS WILL SEEK THE Supreme Court's intervention if executive branch officials continue to invoke Malacañang's Executive Order No. 464 to avoid having to attend Senate inquiries.

"We are prepared to go back all the way to the Supreme Court if [they] continue to invoke EO 464," Sen. Franklin Drilon told reporters yesterday.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, who had rebuked Malacañang over the snubs which he branded as "concerted moves" to embarrass the chamber, also said the Senate was "prepared" for another face-off with the Palace over EO 464.

"Both sides are like fighting cocks girding for a fight, and this is not good. It's a confrontation again but, ah, the Senate is prepared," Arroyo said in a briefing late Wednesday afternoon.

In a rerun of last year's skirmish between the two equal branches of government over EO 464 that was settled by the Supreme Court, labor and workers' welfare officials recently twice skipped the Senate labor committee's hearing on the status of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration fund.

Then Philippine Regulation Commission officials on Tuesday skipped the civil service committee's hearing on the alleged leak of test questions in last June's nursing board exams.

The officials cited the Senate committees' failure to state the statutes that prompted the inquiries and list the questions to be asked in their invitations to the hearings as the reason for their non-appearance, stressing the requirements were laid out in the Supreme Court ruling on EO 464.

But the senators chose to avoid a confrontation with the Palace and decided to ask the Senate legal department to study the high court's ruling vis-a-vis the snubs, with the aim of citing the executive branch officials in contempt.

"I don't want to jump the gun at this point. Because the caucus has already decided to let the legal counsel study it first," Drilon said.

But Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the option of asking the SC to cite the no-shows in contempt was being considered.

"That can be done," Magsaysay told reporters.

While the Senate labor committee suspended its hearing on the Owwa fund, the civil service committee is pressing ahead with its inquiry into the leak of test questions in the nursing board exams.

"We have to finish this. It will be to the detriment of the examinees if this is kept hanging," labor committee chair Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who set the next hearing for Wednesday, said in an interview.

In contrast, Cabinet members showed up in full force at the Thursday's finance committee hearing chaired by Drilon on the P46.9-billion supplemental budget.

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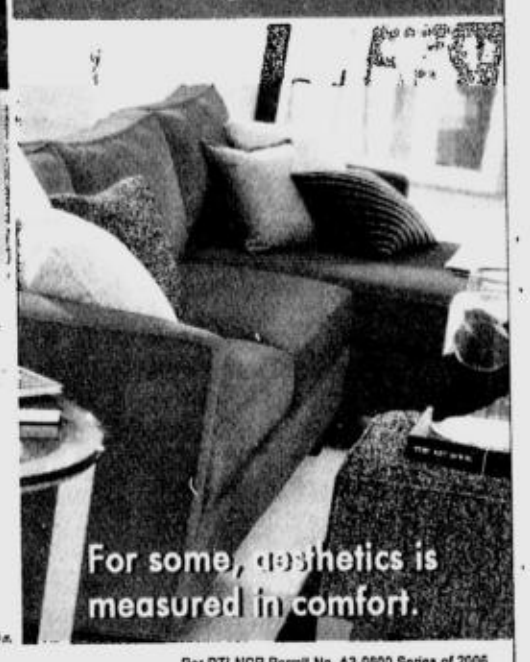

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SC upholds AFP trial of 29 officers

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME Court has ruled the Armed Forces of the Philippines was within its rights when it filed charges and initiated court-martial proceedings against 29 junior military officers in connection with the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

In a 17-page decision, the court threw out the petition for prohibition and a temporary restraining order filed by Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and 10 other alleged mutiny leaders against then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya and AFP Judge Advocate General Mariano M. Sarmiento Jr.

In the ruling penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, the court also castigated Judge Oscar B. Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court for ruling in February 2004 that the crimes committed by the accused were "not service-connected, but rather absorbed by and in furtherance of the alleged crime of coup d'etat," hence could be tried in the RTC.

Using the RTC's declaration, the 11 alleged mutiny leaders sought to end the court-martial proceedings where they were charged with violating Articles of War.

"The RTC, in making such a declaration, practically amended the law which expressly vests in the court-martial jurisdiction over 'service-oriented' crimes or offenses. What the law has conferred, the court should not take away," the high tribunal said.

It said the declaration by Judge Pimentel "constitutes grave abuse of discretion tantamount to lack or excess of jurisdiction and is, therefore, void."

Agapito; 57

JESUS S. AGAPITO, of Barangka Itaas, Mandaluyong City, died last Aug. 8 after a vehicular accident. He was 57. His body is at the family residence on Block 5, Lot 34, St. Mary Street, Metroville, Maggahan, Pasig City. He left behind wife Cristina Veloso Agapito and children Myra and Willy Licas, Mira and Cesar Tacsuan, Mara and Norbel Bellosillo, Milan and Ima, Marion, Moraya, MJ, Martin and Majo. Cremation will be at 9 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

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US urged: No safe haven for Joc-joc

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

DO NOT GRANT SAFE HAVEN to "professed kleptocrats" such as Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante.

This was the plea made by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. in a formal opposition to the asylum bid of the former agriculture undersecretary in the United States.

In a strongly worded 8-page judicial notice sent to the US State Department, Magsaysay filed a "declaration vehemently objecting to and/or opposing" the application of Bolante for political asylum saying it was a "mere ploy and grand scheme" to escape prosecution for the plunder of P728 million fertilizer funds.

Magsaysay, in his opposition dated Aug. 8, told US Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales that Bolante was the architect and brains behind the diversion of at least P728 million fertilizer fund to political allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure her victory in the 2004 presidential election.

He told the US attorney general that the fertilizer scam is one of the grounds for the new impeachment complaint facing Ms Arroyo at the House of Representatives.

Magsaysay filed the opposition in his capacity as chair of the Senate agriculture committee which investigated the fertilizer scam. He said he is blocking Bolante's bid also on behalf of some 4.38 million fertilizers deprived of the funds.

Romulo in Burma for talks with junta

YANGON—PHILIPPINE FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo arrived in Burma (Myanmar) on Thursday for talks with its military rulers but refused to say whether he would see detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The minister is expected to hold talks with his Burmese counterpart, Nyan Win, later in the day, and will visit the country's new administrative capital of Nay Pyi Taw, 320 kilometers north of Yangon, on Friday.

He is expected to see the junta's reclusive leader, Senior General Than Shwe, and Prime Minister Soe Win at their new compound built in the jungles outside the central town of Pyinmana, officials said.

The Philippines, which assumed ASEAN's rotating leadership last month, has said Romulo would seek a meeting with 61-year-old Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent 10 of the last 17 years under house arrest in Yangon.

But the foreign secretary was mum when a group of reporters asked him in Yangon whether he would meet the opposition leader during a three-day trip.

Ahead of his departure for Yangon, Romulo said that he aimed to "get a better sense of how the country's national reconciliation and democratization process is progressing on the ground."

"The Philippines has always supported Myanmar's road map to democracy, and I hope to hear from Myanmar's leaders how we can help Myanmar move forward on this path," Romulo said in a statement in Manila.

Romulo's trip, originally planned in early July, followed Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's surprise one-day visit to Burma last week.

ROMULO IN BURMA: Mum on Suu Kyi

AFP PHOTO

Burma, the Philippines and Thailand are members of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a grouping that also includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

But military-ruled Burma, which joined ASEAN in 1997, has embarrassed the regional bloc by refusing to accept democratic reforms.

Its junta bloodily crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988 and two years later rejected the results of national elections won by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

The United Nations has also estimated there are 1,100 political prisoners in Burma, which has been ruled by the military since 1962.

ASEAN is pursuing a policy of "constructive engagement" to encourage Burma to democratize. But its engagement policy has led to friction with the United States and the European Union, which impose sanctions on the military regime.

However, Malaysian leaders signaled Tuesday that Burma will not be allowed to hide behind ASEAN's policy of non-interference in members' affairs, saying actions that threaten the bloc's credibility cannot be ignored. *AFP*

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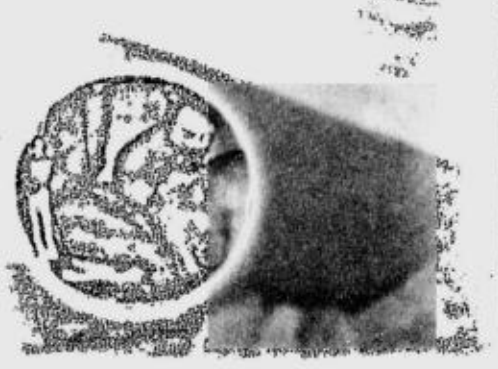

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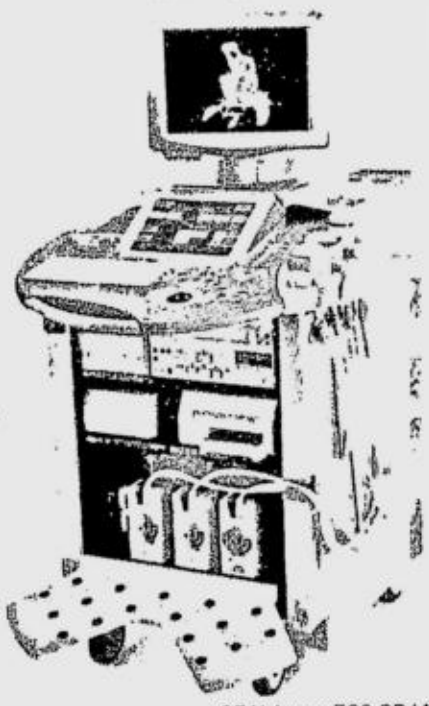

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2. Bay, Teodoro A.
3. Chiongson, Roberto S.
4. De Gracia, Jr., Fortunato M.
5. Inting, Socorro B.
6. Manalastas, Danilo A.
7. Paredes, Victoria Isabel A.
8. Vilches, Nimfa C.
9. Yap, Marilyn L.
10. Ybañez, Elihu A.

B. Outstanding First Level Court Judges
1. Algodon, Eleuteria B.
2. Brotonel, Manolo A.
3. Caldona, Edgardo M.
4. Fabian, Catherine C.
5. Gonzaga, Esteban V.
6. Mangrobang, Ma. Celestina C.
7. Medina, Thelma B.
8. Panga Jr., Timoteo A.
9. Quimpo-Salc, Angelene Mary W.
10. Veloso, Ester M.

C. Outstanding Clerks of Court
1. Baluyut, Theresa M.
2. De Jesus, Teresita D.
3. Montemayor-Labitoria, Josephine
4. Rivero, Ma. B. G. Candida
5. Salva, Macario Rufino A.
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The public may submit any comments on the abovementioned finalists on or before 21 AUGUST 2006, to the:

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Ombudsman gets 'last' deadline extension

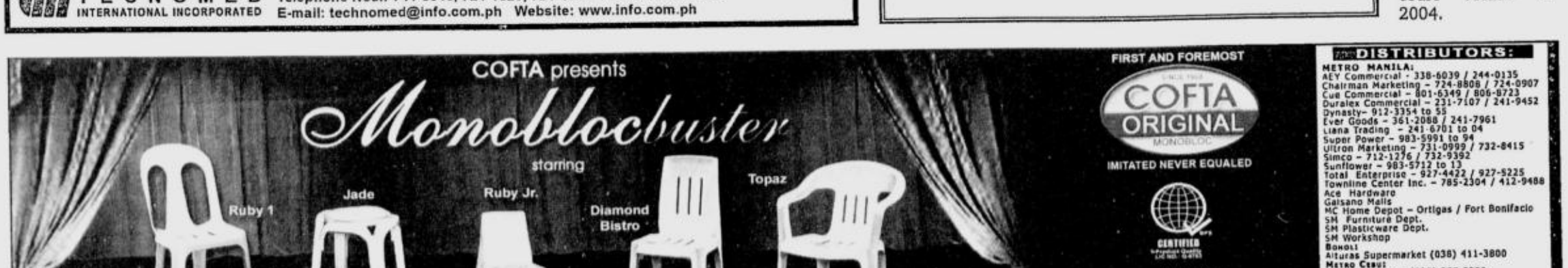
By Armand N. Nocum

FOR THE SECOND and "last" time, the Supreme Court has extended a deadline for the Office of the Ombudsman, giving it until Sept. 30 to complete its investigation on the culpability of Commission on Elections officials in the failed P1.3 billion poll automation deal.

In a two-page en banc resolution, the court said it had "resolved to grant the Office of the Ombudsman an extension until Sept. 30 within which to complete and terminate its proceedings."

But in its Aug. 8 decision and which was issued only yesterday, the high court said "this would definitely be the last extension to be given by the court."

The court earlier extended its June 30 deadline to Aug. 14, but Special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the anti-graft body may not be able to meet the deadline because the Ombudsman investigating panel wanted to make sure it does not leave anything out in its probe into the liability of Comelec commissioners for the contract with the Mega Pacific consortium which the court voided in 2004.



IN THE KNOW

THE *CEDULA*—ALSO KNOWN AS community tax certificate—was, in the 19th century, an identification card that had to be carried at all times. A person who could not present his or her cedula to a *guardia civil* could then be detained for being "indocumentado."

Considering the document a sign of Spanish colonization, Andres Bonifacio and other Katipuneros tore their cedulas in August 1896, signaling the start of the Philippine Revolution.

The cedula has evolved into the community tax certificate under the Local Government Code of 1991. The code authorizes cities and municipalities to collect annual community tax from corporations, and from residents aged 18 and above who have been employed on a wage basis for at least 30 consecutive days, or who are engaged in business, or who are required by law to file an income tax return.

2 components

The tax has two components: a.) the basic community tax (P5 for individuals and P500 for corporations), and b.) the additional community tax (for individuals, P1 per P1,000 of income; additional tax for corporations will depend on their earnings and real property the preceding year). The additional tax should not exceed P5,000 for individuals, and P10,000 for corporations.

The community tax should be paid to the barangay, city or municipal treasurer of the individual's place of residence, or of the location of the corporation's principal office.

Exemptions

Exempted are diplomatic and consular representatives, and visitors staying in the Philippines for less than three months. They can still get a cedula voluntarily for P1.

A person is required to present a cedula when he or she acknowledges a document before a notary public; takes an oath of office upon election or appointment to a government position; receives a license, certificate or permit from a public authority; pays a tax or fee; receives money from a public fund; transacts official business; or receives salary from a person or corporation. *Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research*

N. Ecija folk in mad scramble to get residence certificates

From page A1

we can't present our CTC, the soldiers would ask us many questions. It would be good for us to have our CTR," another resident said.

Miranda said the treasurers of Llanera and Carranglan towns had asked her office for additional CTC forms, as residents there began applying for residence certificates.

San Jose City Mayor Alex Belena said the cedula fee in his city had been pegged at P5 each for students and the elderly, and at least P11 for other residents.

Looking for enemies

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City, said the soldiers' practice of asking for cedulas from residents was done on a "case to case basis."

"We're looking for enemies," he said, to explain why it was being done. "It's just a process of identifying people."

If no cedula is available, travel passports or an endorsement by the barangay captain will do, he said.

The people who are usually asked to produce identification cards are those not known to be permanent residents of an area, according to Palparan. "It's part of our job," he said.

But he said it was "just a procedure, not a policy."

Asked if the ID system was a virtual form of martial rule, Palparan raised his voice and said: "Why martial rule? Aren't people supposed to carry IDs with them?"

He said the movements of residents were not being restrained.

A spokesperson of the Army's 7th Infantry Division denied that soldiers were requiring residents to show their cedulas, saying the document was not proof that one was a bona fide resident.

Capt. Wilfredo Martin said reports that soldiers were demanding to see a cedula from residents were mere "leftist propaganda."

Barangay defense council

At a forum attended by about 150 businessmen and local officials on Wednesday, Army officers said soldiers were conducting "area cleaning operations" in the different villages in the city.

Palparan, who spoke at the forum, said the military organized the forum in preparation for the setting up of a barangay defense council.

Lt. Col. Jose Kakilala, commander of the Army's 48th Infantry Battalion, said soldiers were operating in the villages to "cleanse" the areas of NPA rebels and their supporters.

The residents' presentation of CTCs was proof that they lived in the area and were known to their barangay officials, according to Kakilala.

Palparan said a cedula was not a requirement of the military. "I said that it is your responsibility to identify yourself and the least that you could have is a cedula," he said.

He denied that the so-called procedure was being done throughout Central Luzon.

During the martial law years, from 1971 to 1982, the ID system was known to have been implemented in Porac, Pampanga, a former bailiwick of the NPA.

Revolutionary taxes

Palparan asked businessmen, who had or have been contributing revolutionary taxes to the NPA, with come forward and share information with the military.

"We will not charge you. We just want to ask from you some questions relative to the enemy's activities," he said.

The military has a list of local businessmen who had paid or were paying revolutionary taxes to the NPA, according to Palparan. The list, he said, was among the documents recovered from rebels during clashes with government soldiers.

Kakilala said the rebels were collecting some P2.1 million every three months from businessmen in Nueva Ecija and Aurora.

Palparan said those who would not heed his request would be declared "our enemy because you are helping violators, illegal groups."

"You are their accomplices and are fighting [behind] our back," he said.

He asked the businessmen to take a "firm stand" against the enemy.

"Threaten them. Use my name... and the 'berdugo' tag they have given me," he said.

Palparan, who has been called a *berdugo* (butcher or executioner) by activists, has been blamed for the killings of activists in Mindoro, Samar and Central Luzon.

Calculated use of force

He also warned residents against giving shelter to NPA rebels. If these rebels were confirmed to be armed, Palparan said, "I have given orders to my soldiers to fire."

"Sorry *na lang kung may madamay na sibilyan* (It will be a pity if there are civilians who may get hurt or killed in the process)," he said. "In the first place, why are they consorting with the enemy?"

Palparan said in the all-out war to crush the rebels, the military was authorized to employ "calculated use of force."

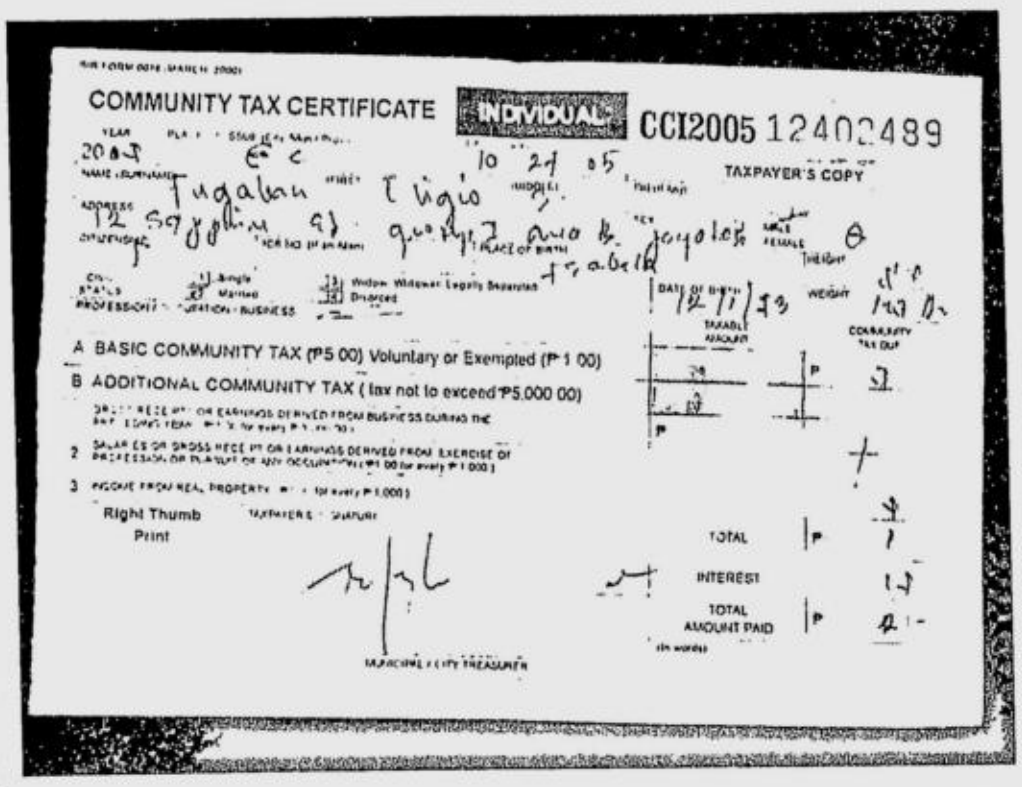
'Shoot them'

"My order to my soldiers is that if they are certain that there are armed rebels in a house or yard, shoot them)," he said. "We are sorry if you are killed in the crossfire."

But Palparan said if his soldiers would commit a mistake, they were liable under the law and would be prosecuted.

In the third month of the military campaign to defeat the rebels, Palparan said San Jose City, Guimba, Cuyapo, Lupao and Gapan City in Nueva Ecija; Pandi, San Ildefonso, Norzagaray and San Miguel towns in Bulacan, and the entire Pampanga had been "cleared" of rebels.

He said Sta. Maria and Angat in Bulacan had been 80 percent and 70 percent "cleared," respectively. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*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No 'load': Why . . .

From page A1

ability to communicate... with each other was due to a lack of cell phone load that surprisingly affected all of them at the same time," Dr. Geneve Rivera, an officer of HEAD and one of the members of the fact-finding mission, said yesterday.

The mission said this fact was based on its interviews with members of the Claver family who asked the police why the checkpoints were not alerted about the speeding vans with no license plates. The family members said they were told of the lack of cell phone credits.

"The actions and behavior of the PNP-Kalinga raise doubts on their sincerity in preventing, even in solving the crime," Rivera said at a news briefing.

Budget for communications

Rivera said the mission found that the provincial government recently gave the Kalinga police a substantial amount for their communications needs.

Claver, who was driving an SUV when the armed men sprayed the vehicle with bullets, survived the attack. He sustained three gunshot wounds in the left shoulder and shrapnel wounds in the abdomen.

His wife Alice succumbed to 26 gunshot wounds, according to the doctors who conducted the fact-finding mission.

"The fatal one was the one that hit her superior vena cava (of the heart). She was taken to the operating room for emergency surgical intervention, was transfused with 16 units of blood, and had six cardio-pulmonary arrests before expiring at around 12:45 p.m." said the doctors in their report.

The couple had just brought their 11-year-old daughter Alessandra to St. Tony's College in Barangay Bulanao when the ambush happened.

Another daughter, 7-year-old Cassandra, hid behind the front seat after her father shouted "*Dapa* (Get down!)" when he saw the gunmen from the two vans. She escaped the attack unharmed.

"We are willing to share the evidence that we gathered with any government agency," Rivera told reporters. "Even with Task Force Usig."

Task Force Usig of the Philippine National Police was assigned to investigate and solve killings of unarmed militants and journalists.

However, militant groups questioned its integrity because of the task force's initial finding that a purge in the leftist movement was the cause of the killings.

Since 2001, 245 activists and 47 journalists have been killed in the country.

Independent commission

The families of the victims yesterday called for the creation of an independent commission to investigate the alleged human rights abuses against their loved ones.

At a news conference, the fathers, mothers and siblings of those who were killed said they could not accept Task Force Usig looking into the killings.

"We can only trust people who are known for their probity and independence to join the probe into the deaths and disappearances of our loved ones," they said in a statement.

The families have organized themselves into the Mothers and Relatives against Tyranny, or Martyr. The group was launched yesterday during a news conference at the United Council of Churches in the Philippines.

They called on the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to help realize the creation of an independent commission to be composed of priests, other religious and individuals of unquestionable integrity.

"While Ms Arroyo's creation of a Task Force Usig to... investigate and solve the killings was due to a mounting national and international pressure, we deem it unacceptable because top officials involved in the probe have already pronounced that government authorities are blameless in the killings of our loved ones," they said.

Leads from top cops

The party-list group Akbayan urged investigators to talk to top police officials who might have leads on those behind the killings.

Byron Bocar, a staffer at the office of Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales, claimed that former Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma, then the regional director of Eastern Visayas, had told the relatives of a slain militant leader that he had an inkling that people under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, then commander of the military in the area, might be involved.

Bocar was referring to the killing of lawyer Norman Bocar, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Eastern Visayas, in Borongan town in Eastern Samar in September last year.

"General Coloma... told the brother of the victim, Norman Bocar, my cousin, that one, they (police) had nothing to do with it, and that he had suspicions that people under Palparan might be the ones behind it," Bocar said.

Coloma's alleged remarks, made during a visit to Bocar's wake, was relayed to him, the Akbayan officer said, adding that the family was "surprised that he said what he said."

Palparan, who left his post days before the killing for another assignment, had said in a phone interview that he had nothing to do with the militant's death.

"I left Eastern Visayas six days ago. Those people have their own enemies. I have become a very convenient target for their blaming because I'm known as an anti-insurgency operator of the government," he had told the INQUIRER.

Conference on killings

The Akbayan officer was among the participants at yesterday's conference on the political killings organized by the police in Quezon City. *(Story on Page A8.)*

"He must have a basis for saying so. In fact, he added that two more might become victims and one of those, soon after... was killed," Bocar said.

He urged investigators to speak to Coloma and other senior police officials who might have some leads on the killings.

"Let the facts decide the case. There should not be pre-judgements one way or another," he said.

His allegations could not be independently verified at press time.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 11, 2006
18th Week in Ordinary Time
Clare of Assisi

1st Reading: Nh 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7
Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you want to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me. For whoever chooses to save his life will lose it, but the one who loses his life for my sake will find it. What will one gain by winning the whole world if he destroys himself? There is nothing you can give to recover your own self.

"Know that the Son of Man will come in the Glory of his Father with the holy angels, and he will reward each one according to his deeds. Truly, I tell you, there are some here who will not die before they see the Son of Man coming as king."

Commentary

Nahum the prophet cries out rejoicing in the deliverance of Judah, and the destruction and woe for the city of Nineveh that will be destroyed. Always the choice is the same: do we chose life, obedience, justice for the poor, the true worship of God or do we choose greed, injustice, violence and the mockery of empty prayers/ritual? Jesus is clear: if we are to follow him then we must deny ourselves, pick up our cross and come after him to death and resurrection. There will be judgment, repayment, life and death. We're supposed to choose life now, over and over again, daily, as we sign ourselves.

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SMART

Produce results, police told; Bayan snubs conference on political killings

By Luige A. del Puerto

PARTICIPANTS IN A MULTISECtoral conference on the political killings emerged yesterday from the meeting optimistic that they had brought to the attention of the police specific cases that they wanted solved.

Representatives of farmers, business and nongovernment organizations, the clergy and a party-list group understood the gravity of the situation and told Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon that they wanted to see results.

One participant urged the authorities to stop lumping his group together with other organizations espousing national democracy (ND), a program closely identified with the Communist Party of the Philippines, pointing out that the majority of victims came from these organizations.

Early morning circus

ND groups, as expected, snubbed the conference, describing it as an "early morning circus show" that they did not want to be part of.

Among those who boycotted the conference was House Deputy Minority Leader Satur Ocampo.

Ocampo said the PNP and its Task Force Usig, which is tasked with investigating the killings, were "incapable of undertaking a credible and impartial investigation."

"They harbor terrible biases, especially against victims and their organizations. They suffer from zero credibility and zero conviction rates. This does not augur well for the cause of justice," said Ocampo, a Bayan Muna party-list representative.

He said even Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, the task force chief, had accused Bayan Muna and other legal organizations "of being no different from the New People's Army, in a cruel attempt to justify the political killings."

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas said the conference was "a shameless attempt to cover up the truth on the political killings and merely a publicity project for image building."

As expected, the police took advantage of the absence of ND groups to highlight the view that they were insincere.

Bashing ND groups

"I'm saddened that the other groups preferred to boycott our invitation, and that is not a good indication," Calderon said.

"Instead of going to the streets (and) going to the media, why don't they sit with us at a table to discuss each case?"

Indeed, the police used the occasion to criticize ND groups.

Police officials opened the dialogue with a briefing quoting the International Media Organization (IMO) as having branded the Philippines as the "second most dangerous country next to Iraq in terms of slain media personalities."

"This is obviously not true and inconsistent with the real data since IMO got its information from the biased NDF (National Democratic Front) International Solidarity Network Organization," the paper said.

But Jose Torres, an official of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), pointed out that no such organization existed.

It was the International Federation of Journalists and Reporters Without Frontiers, both based in Europe, that had labeled the country as dangerous for reporters, he said.

'Knowing the enemy'

In fact, these two groups obtained their figures not from NDF-affiliated organizations, but from the NUJP, which he said "is not linked to the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines)."

"(But) this is a start. We hope the consultation will continue. We hope we could compare notes," Torres said.

"It was very interesting to have the different sectors... and the nongovernment organizations here. It has a lot of possibilities," agreed Fr. Archie Casey, who was part of a fact-finding mission that looked into the killings of farmers.

Byron Bocar of Akbayan told the authorities not to lump his group, even as it strongly condemned the killings, together with ND organizations.

Akbayan, he said, was not a front of the CPP (Akbayan, in fact, is considered rejectionist, one of the groups that opposed the leadership of CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison when the leftist movement split up in the early 1990s).

Bocar said Akbayan's name, along with NDF-affiliated groups such as Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, had cropped up in the controversial military PowerPoint presentation "Knowing the Enemy."

"This is important because this is a matter of life and death," he said, agreeing with the assessment that members of ND groups appeared to be the targets of the killings.

Lone military representative

Calderon told the lone representative of the Armed Forces, Col. Lysander Suerte, to discuss the matter with the military leadership.

The conference nearly turned into a platform for communist bashing, with the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (Anad) taking the lead.

An Anad official said the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, should simply give up their arms.

Another Anad member accused Akbayan of being communist or Marxist, albeit of a different strand.

It took Calderon himself to rein in the discussion and guide it back to the issue on the table: To discuss ways to stop the killings and solve the cases.

"I don't want it deviated," he said. "We don't want to be pointing accusatory fingers here. Let's leave that to other forums."

Insights

Police have long urged witnesses and the victims' relatives to cooperate in the investigation. The other participants offered insights, including the following:

- Make the justice system work faster, which an official of the Supreme Court said was already being addressed.
- Focus on the killings of peasants and farmers as well.
- Apply restraint to the labeling of organizations as leftist, militant or party-list.
- Closely watch cases in court to ensure that the lackluster performance of prosecutors or policemen and perceived bias of judges are reported.
- Support efforts of the PNP to run after criminals. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

"AFP Berdugo ng Katutubo" (AFP butcher of tribal people) was painted on a wall at Camp Aguinaldo's Gate 2 during a rally for indigenous people's rights and got this man arrested by the military police. AP

Need for human rights body pushed in Asean charter

By Volt Contreras

AS THE GROWING LIST OF UNsolved killings of activists and journalists has placed the Philippines starkly on the radar screens of global rights watchdogs, local civil society groups are strongly backing the creation of an Asean Human Rights Commission.

That the 10-nation regional bloc "needs" such a body was emphasized during the Philippine round of consultations on the proposed charter of the Association of Southeast Nations, ex-President Fidel Ramos reported yesterday.

Ramos presided over yesterday's consultation meeting, the second to be held this year, as the country's representative to the Asean Eminent Persons Group, a nongovernment panel convened to set broad guidelines for drafting the Asean Charter.

The meeting was held at the Department of Foreign Affairs and gathered representatives from around 30 civil society groups, including Ramos' sister, ex-Sen. Leticia Shahani and former members of his Cabinet like then national security adviser Jose Almonte.

Participants who provided inputs on the political and security aspects of the charter stressed that "there is a need for an Asean Human Rights Commission," Ramos told reporters in a briefing.

Commitment to peace

The charter, considered a major step toward gluing Asean members together in ways similar to the European Union, should also bind the member states to a "commitment to peace," he added, citing other highlights of the meeting.

Respect for cultural and religious diversity, which had led to conflicts in other parts of the globe, must also be a hallmark of that charter, he said.

It will be the continuing "advantage (of Asean) if we could make diversity work for us," Ramos added, proudly noting that no wars have erupted between or among Asean member states since the organization was established in 1967.

Ramos, though, reminded his audience that Asean "must go beyond unity and (work) toward union."

On the economic aspects of the charter, Ramos said the Philippine consultation also arrived at an agreement that "development (within Asean) must not be at the expense of women, children, youth and indigenous peoples."

When to raise alert level a big problem

SIX EXPLOSIONS OF ASH IN JUST over two hours made the decision easy for scientists monitoring Mayon, the Philippines' most active volcano: It was time to raise the alert level to warn that an eruption was imminent.

It wasn't a decision they took lightly, as their judgment call on Monday set in motion a number of emergency measures: Officials ordered mandatory evacuations, mobilized the military, and began staffing and stocking shelters for tens of thousands of people.

Make the call too early and officials would complain about wasted resources. Evacuees, worried about their homes, crops and livestock, might return to the danger zone before the threat was over. Overcrowded shelters could spawn health problems of their own.

Make the call too late and people might die.

Getting better

If an eruption failed to materialize, there would be accusations of crying wolf—and the more worrying prospect that people might not listen and obey the next time.

Science is getting better at predicting the conditions that spell an imminent natural disaster, especially weather-spawned events such as typhoons and tornadoes.

But warning of an impending earthquake, volcanic eruption or tsunami is part science, part experience and part concern about the consequences of doing nothing, or too much.

Indonesian authorities thought for two months that the Merapi Volcano was ready to erupt, only to lower the alert level in July following a significant decrease in activity. But it already had proven its unpredictability: two men were burned to death in an emergency shelter where they sought refuge during an avalanche of volcanic debris.

"Volcanology is not a perfect science—the term we use is forecast, meaning there is a window, a period of time, when an explosion could occur," said Ed Laguerta of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

"I don't know if you can find anybody who will tell you that a volcano will erupt tomorrow at 3 p.m.

Forecasting time

"Magnitude you can estimate from past behavior, but forecasting the time is most critical. Based on our machines, you can only say if it's within hours, within days or weeks. And we reassess as external factors change."

There's still so little that's predictable about volcanoes that scientists even wonder if the moon's influence could be a factor.

"It could be a trigger factor if a volcano is ready to erupt, but it would not by itself cause an eruption. We have full and new moons each month, and if these were the cause, we would have volcanic eruptions twice a month," Laguerta said from his hillside monitoring station 11 km from Mayon.

With much of the action underground, scientists use a variety of tools, monitoring earthquakes so small that they can't be felt by humans, measuring changes in emissions of sulfur dioxide gas, analyzing the growth or collapse of the lava dome.

A sudden increase in rumbling or emissions could signal an impending eruption. But so could a decrease in activity, which could mean something's blocked the flow of lava and gases, creating a pressure cooker ready to blow.

Parts stolen

Mayon began spewing lava in a "quiet" eruption on July 14. Considering that it has erupted at least 47 times in the last 400 years, the renewed activity sparked immediate concern.

Ideally, Mayon should have at least six monitoring stations scattered around the mountain. Laguerta and his colleagues have to rely on four—parts have been stolen from some, likely for scrap metal, despite appeals that the equipment is crucial to save lives. *AP*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid and if later found eligible, to bid for the project described below.

Project Title	:	Proposed Repainting of BSP Cebu Regional Office Building
Scope of Work	:	Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed repainting of the BSP Cebu Regional Office Building all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract
Project Location	:	Osmeña Blvd. Cor. P. del Rosario Sts., Cebu City
Approved Budget	:	Five Million Seven Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand and Four Hundred Pesos (P5,738,400.00)
Source of Funding	:	BSP Corporate Funds
Contract Duration	:	Ninety (90) calendar days
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)		
PCAB License	:	Registration Particulars of at least "Small B" (Painting Works or Building and Industrial Plant)
Contractor's Construction Experience	:	Should have completed within the last five (5) years (2001 to present) at least three (3) projects involving painting works or similar projects, one of which costs not less than two million eight hundred seventy thousand pesos (P2,870,000.00)
		In case of a joint venture, submission of a valid venture agreement including the special PCAB license is required. The joint venture must have previously completed at least two (2) similar construction projects involving similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.
Certification of Satisfactory Performance	:	Should be able to submit certificates of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects.
		For those contractors who have previously done/completed BSP projects, the certificates of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said projects must be submitted.
Net Financial Contracting Capacity or Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate	:	At least Five Million Seven Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (P5,738,400.00) computed as 10 x (current asset less current liabilities) minus (value of all on going contracts including awarded yet to be started).
	:	At least Five Hunded Seventy Five Thousand Pesos (P575,000.00)
Eligibility Statement Forms		
Cost of Forms	:	Five Hundred Pesos per set (P500.00/set)
Date of Issuance	:	August 01 to 14, 2006 / 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Deadline of Submission	:	August 18, 2006 / 10:00 a.m.
Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility		
Date of Issuance	:	August 21, 2006 / 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bid/Tender Documents Issuance	:	Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00)
Date of Issuance	:	September 01 to 04, 2006 / 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Pre-Bid Conference		
Date and Time	:	September 08, 2006 / 10:00 a.m.
Venue	:	MR2A, 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex, A.Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila
Submission and Opening of Bids		
Deadline of Submission		October 03, 2006 / 10:00 a.m.

For inquiries, please call BAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

The venue for the issuance and submission of accomplished eligibility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila.

The schedule for issuance of notice of eligibility/ineligibility up to the deadline of submission of bids may be subject to changes.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

For those contractors who have previously done / completed BSP project/s, the certificate/s of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said project/s must be submitted.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - July 31 & Aug. 11, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Regional Office III
PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., San Agustin, City of San Fernando Pampanga
Healthline (046) 963-7148 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. III-06-003

PhilHealth Regional Office III (PRO III), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites registered and licensed janitorial services agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Procurement of Janitorial and Other Related Services
Location	:	PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., City of San Fernando
Brief Description	:	Provision of janitorial and other related services to PhilHealth Regional Office III and its 10 Service Offices in Region III
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php2,849,000.00
Contract Duration	:	One (1) Year
Delivery Period	:	Within 15 days after issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 11 to August 25, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	August 25, 2006 at 1:30 PM
3. Opening of Bids	September 06, 2006 at 1:30 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	September 07 to 14, 2006
5 Post-Qualification	September 15 to 22, 2006
6. Notice of Award	October 09, 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Cashier of PhilHealth Regional Office III.

(Sgd.) PRISCILLA G. ASUNCION
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 11 & 18, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 551-3438 • 551-34-54 • Facsimile (632) 551-3436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP7,304,718.13 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Operation & Maintenance of Pump Stations, Water Distribution System, STP, & Transmission Lines at the Cavite Economic Zone. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the operation and maintenance of CEZ's pump stations and sewerage treatment plants, its electro-mechanical components, equipment, safety devices, and control panel system twenty-four (24) hours daily. This includes the repair and maintenance of water and sewerage distribution/transmission lines, including installation disconnection of water meters twenty-six (26) days each month for a period of one (1) year. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 11 to 25 August 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of their Phil-GEPS Certificate of Registration and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos Only (PhP5,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 31 August 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 13 September 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 13 September 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. III, Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-0587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–August 11 & 18, 2006)

Planes, ships ready, but where are OFWs?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS PLANES AND ships ready to take Filipinos out of Lebanon, but there are not enough of them in the evacuation centers there despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal appeal for them to come home.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos expressed a certain helplessness at a briefing yesterday in Malacañang: "I don't know what we will do [to bring them out]. We can't go around Lebanon carrying handcuffs and cuffing them. I think the problem is attitude. They are saying they can weather this storm."

As of 10 a.m. yesterday, there were only 1,494 Filipinos in the evacuation centers in Lebanon and Syria. All of them will be moved to Manila by Saturday, Conejos said.

This will push the number of returnees from Lebanon to over 4,000, or just a fraction of the 30,000 overseas Filipino workers whom the President wants to evacuate from the war-torn country.

"We have to face the President and deliver the 30,000 OFWs she ordered. There will be no excuses here," Conejos said.

Conejos said the government had readied alternative sea routes should the fighting in Lebanon render the roads impassable. But there are not enough Filipinos to fill the ships.

"To be very frank about it, we are running low on OFWs. In spite of the massive campaigns we have undertaken to get them to the collection centers, we are not getting the numbers we expected," Conejos said.

"My goodness," he said, "this means they feel it is safer in Beirut because they calculated that this war might not widen."

Conejos said most of the Filipinos in Lebanon were questioning the President's assessment of the conflict between Israeli and Hezbollah forces.

"They are asking us, 'Why bring us home? These are just air strikes. You should have been here 10-15 years ago, when Lebanon was in the grip of a civil war. For 15 years, there was fighting here and we did not go home. Why now?'" he said.

Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson noted that the strongest resistance to Ms Arroyo's evacuation order was coming from the old hands in Lebanon.

Citing reply forms submitted by 2,400 evacuees, Imson said 57 percent of the returnees were illegal aliens and had no choice but to come home, and most of the remaining 43 percent were first-timers who had spent less than a year in Lebanon and were understandably nervous about the fighting.

Conejos said the government was standing by its assessment that the situation in Lebanon had become "dangerous."

He reiterated its earlier appeal for Filipinos to go to the evacuation centers "while there is time, and not wait for the last minute because it could be more difficult at that point."

Conejos also said that while their employers' refusal to let them go could be a reason for the small number of OFWs at the evacuation centers, the major problem was their attitude.

He said the OFWs would give more credence to the evacuation order if the President herself gave the order.

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GMA's appeal to NPA: Don't attack Mayon troops

From page A1

disaster zone.

Bañares said the NPA-NDF maintained a policy of observing ceasefires in calamity areas, which include areas affected by Mayon volcano's eruption. He said the truce did not cover the entire Bicol region.

Maj. Ramon Ronald Rosario, commander of the 2nd Civil Relations Group at the Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar, said the NPA guerrillas' assaulted "noncombatant soldiers, mostly medical personnel and those engaged in the preparation of relief goods."

"It's one glaring treachery without even considering the plight of the thousands of Mayon evacuees that the soldiers have been helping," Rosario said.

Officials at Camp Nakar said troops were now hunting the NPA attackers, in addition to providing aid to the relocated farmers from Mayon.

Treacherous

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor condemned as a "treacherous act" the attack by the Communist Party of the Philippines' military wing on the 901st Infantry Brigade headquarters in Barangay Villahermosa in Daraga, Albay, on Tuesday that wounded five soldiers.

"The CPP-NPA has shown its true colors and is living up to its name as a terrorist group," Bunye said. "But the Armed Forces and police will never be daunted in performing their joint humanitarian missions."

"We condemn in the strongest terms the actions taken by the NPA and we hope this will stop this kind of operations against our military in the middle of evacuation efforts being conducted by the government," Defensor told reporters.

He said the NPA should stop these attacks as it does not help their image, noting that people had already come to know them as extortionists, among other things.

No ceasefire

Unlike the ceasefire called by the government in Sorsogon following the eruption of Mount Bulusan, Defensor said there was no chance the government would call for one in Albay because of the sudden deterioration of the situation on Mt. Mayon.

At the PNR Buendia station, President Arroyo said that the 6-ha PNR station in Legazpi City will be utilized as an evacuation center.

She said she had also instructed the National Disaster Coordinating Council to construct pre-fabricated temporary shelters that could be brought to different evacuation centers in Legazpi City to make evacuees more comfortable.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales told Ms Arroyo that the relief goods to be given the evacuees consisted of 40,800 cans of pork luncheon meat and 150 metric tons of used clothing that were confiscated by customs agents this year for being misdeclared goods.

Morales said his office was prepared to donate another batch of confiscated relief goods for the evacuees.

Lull in eruption

Mayon showed an apparent lull in activity, but the slight change in the sulfur dioxide emission rate indicated the continued unusual state of its unrest, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said yesterday. *(Related story on Page A8.)*

Phivolcs recorded a minor explosion and three volcanic quakes while the sulfur dioxide emission reading was 6,500 tons per day, compared to the previous 7,800 per day.

The Department of Health yesterday also said that diseases had begun to stalk the evacuees. A number of them have complained of acute respiratory infections, asthma, hypertension and trauma. It said these problems were identified in the 5,000 displaced families.

Insufficient supplies

At the Gogon Elementary School, some of the 3,228 evacuees complained of insufficient relief supplies and medical services.

Said Katherine Rondina, 24, who is pregnant: "My situation here is really hard, sleeping in this crowded room. We are around 100 here, with my children crying in the middle of the night. I never had sufficient rest since the time we were brought here last Monday." Rondina was in tears.

Can of sardines

Helen Gaveria, 29, of Bonga, said her family of four children had been sharing a can of sardines every meal since Monday. "If we did not complain, we wouldn't receive our rations."

"Since we are seven in the family, the food ration being given to us, supposed to be consumed for two days, was only good for one day," said Tessie Serrano, 44.

Socorro Azures, 59, has been nursing a cold. "I went to the health center but I was not given any medicine. What they gave me was only a prescription paper." This was also the complaint of other evacuees. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Bobby Q. Labalan, Fernan Gianan, Ephraim Aguilar and Jojo Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Special flight . . .

From page A1

skies but also one man's kindness and appreciation for her loyalty and hard work.

Di Ferro, a veteran pilot of Middle Eastern Airlines, had earlier flown many repatriation flights for people fleeing the war in Lebanon.

But this trip was one of a kind.

Di Ferro yesterday told the INQUIRER that Aydalla had asked permission to return to the Philippines a week ago even if she still had two years left in her contract.

"I allowed her to go because I didn't want to force her to stay in a country where the situation was still bad," he said.

Di Ferro drove Aydalla to the Philippine Embassy in Beirut, and from there she proceeded to the Church of the Miraculous Medal which has been serving as the relocation center for Filipino evacuees.

'Very good man'

But Aydalla said she had not been at the church more than a day when she realized that she did not want to go home.

"I thought, what will happen to me in the Philippines?" she said, indicating that with two young children to support, life would be more difficult without a steady job.

Di Ferro never failed to pay her her $200 monthly salary and at times even paid her in advance, Aydalla said, adding: "He is a very good man."

She recalled how Di Ferro had lightly tried to persuade her to stay, saying he would let her go on a vacation to the Philippines in January.

"He also told me he could not afford to lose me," she said.

Aydalla eventually changed her mind about leaving Lebanon and, through a fellow Filipino, tried to reach Di Ferro to tell him that she would return to his household.

But the message did not reach him, and Aydalla found herself in the company of more than 200 other Filipinos who were to take the Manila-bound Middle Eastern Airlines flight ME 239 chartered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Surprise

At the international airport in Damascus, Syria, Di Ferro and Aydalla had a surprise waiting for them.

"I was having this flight by pure chance, and while going to the aircraft I saw her," Di Ferro said.

Aydalla saw him, too.

"I called out his name. I was so happy that I hugged him. It was embarrassing, actually," she said, laughing.

When the war is over, she will definitely return to Lebanon to work for Di Ferro, Aydalla said.

Di Ferro said he would not have second thoughts about hiring her again.

Unlike Aydalla, however, Gemma Gabriel, 25, arrived with a sprained ankle and a number of deep wounds on her hands—the result of a fall in the course of trying to escape from her Lebanese employer.

A total of 336 other Filipino workers also arrived at midnight yesterday on board a Sky Gate International flight chartered by the Philippine government.

Two more IOM-funded flights with 450 Filipinos each are scheduled to arrive today at 9:30 a.m. and tomorrow at 11:30 a.m.

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OPINION

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Uninhibited

THE PROBLEM WITH *DELICADEZA* IS THAT IT'S A convention of polite society. It's something some people feel they ought to do, because it would be shameful to do otherwise. But the relevance of a sense of shame, even to the well meaning, quickly fades when faced with hard-nosed political imperatives.

EDITORIAL

The five-hour argument that went on in the committee on justice of the House of Representatives is a good illustration of what we mean. After disposing of seven impeachment complaints, and deciding to tackle only one, congressmen got stuck on the question of whether their colleagues who were alleged to have received fertilizer funds should inhibit themselves from the committee's work.

Congressmen opposed the call for different reasons. Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., the first member of the House to publicly denounce the fertilizer scam, focused his arguments on resisting undue, outside pressure on the House: for his fellow representatives to bow to the demands of impeachment proponents would reduce the committee hearing to a "show trial." He also added that allegations shouldn't be confused with fact; and that ultimately, the only people qualified to judge representatives are the congressmen's constituents.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte approached the question from a more politically pragmatic point of view. Congressmen allied with the administration were obviously the target of calls for representatives to inhibit themselves. But what about congressmen presently in the opposition, who were also mentioned in the fertilizer funds report? What about Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta and Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba, who both endorsed the surviving complaint? What about Rep. Benigno Aquino III, or Rep. Henedina Abad (whose husband was mentioned, too)? Insistence on inhibition based on a perceived conflict of interest would rob the complaint of its necessary backing in the House.

Villafuerte's reasoning boils down to the saying that people in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. Which is a pointed reply to his colleagues but irrelevant to those who made the call for congressmen to inhibit themselves. There were four endorsers of the surviving complaint, and inhibiting two would still have left two valid endorsers when the rules only require one. We should be wary of praising a pot that calls the kettle black.

The President's son, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, seized one of Locsin's arguments to answer calls for him to inhibit himself, not because of fertilizer, but because it seemed unseemly for him to deliberate on a complaint involving his mother. He said he had consulted his constituents and they warmly welcomed his participating in deliberations on the complaint against his mother.

Arroyo's doing so, however, points to the flaws in his—and Locsin's—argument. The question of whether or not anyone in the House is actually guilty of receiving fertilizer funds for no other purpose than to bolster their chances of reelection, and whether the funds were spent inappropriately or not, is separate from the question of whether people implicated in the scandal should deliberate on accusations against the President, who is accused of engineering the misuse of such funds. A congressman inhibiting himself from the committee hearings would not be admitting guilt, or surrendering to a mob, he would simply be demonstrating an appreciation of the seriousness of the issues, and the need for the House to be above suspicion in handling such a serious complaint.

Also, congressmen aren't merely tasked with representing their constituencies, they are invested with the responsibility of deliberating on matters that affect the entire nation. Their decisions affect not only their districts, but the country as a whole. They may be affected politically by their constituencies, but what they do affects the Filipino people.

And for congressmen who have senatorial ambitions (and surely at least some in the justice committee do), what they do or don't do, becomes a matter the national electorate will be called upon to judge eventually. Arroyo can say his constituents don't mind his flouting a clear case of a conflict of interest—that is his and their right. If that's the case, he should not complain when his being so thick-skinned is raised as a sign of his behavior should he ever be in the Senate.

As every individual eventually learns, being uninhibited can have unintended consequences.

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Anarchy and brute force at Poro Point

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT CAN A BUSINESSMAN DO IF GOVERNment agencies decide to take over his business illegally? He can seek relief from the courts. But what if the government agencies refuse to obey orders of the court? He is helpless, and the only thing left for him to do is to go to the hills and plot how to get even later on.

That is what is happening at the seaport in Poro Point in San Fernando, La Union, because a politician from a neighboring province wants to take over operations at the port. The port is now closed, ships cannot load or unload cargo because the Philippine Ports Authority wants to forcibly take over the facility but workers at the port barricaded the premises. Ships have to pay $9,000 (P462,780) demurrage fees for each day that they stay at anchorage. The legal operator was able to secure a temporary restraining order from a La Union court, but the raiders refused to obey it and said outright they won't honor it. What is happening is anarchy, and it is being caused by the government whose duty is precisely to see to the orderly enforcement of the laws. Right now, it is brute force that is reigning in Poro Point.

Let me give you a background: The Poro Point seaport, more than 15 hectares in size, was built in the 1960s. It was being managed by the Philippine Ports Authority when it was turned over to the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA). In a public bidding, the BCDA leased it to a private investor for 50 years. The private investor is Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), one of the country's leading and most experienced seaport operators. It also operates the world-class Batangas Port.

BHI then formed the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), a consortium with the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) and the BCDA. PPIC manages the day-to-day operation of the port.

PPIC paid the BCDA P50 million annually as stipulated by the contract, which also provides that the BCDA will turn over to PPIC 18 more hectares of land for the use of the port. The BCDA did not live up to this contractual obligation. Nevertheless, PPIC continued to pay it P50 million a year.

It was a good deal for the BCDA, but a politician close to the administration wanted to take over the facility. The BCDA since the year 2000 looked for, but failed to find, an excuse to declare the contract with PPIC null and void.

Nevertheless, PPMC passed a resolution declaring the 1999 contract between the BCDA and BHI "null and void," paving the way for the physical takeover of the facility. BHI went to court and questioned the move.

The regional trial court of San Fernando slapped the BCDA and PPMC with a TRO, and then a preliminary injunction. The court ordered the government agencies to maintain the status quo.

The whole government then ganged up on the poor port operator, as though its different agencies were in a conspiracy to kick out PPIC. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) declared that PPIC has no Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC). PPMC issued PPIC a "cease and desist" order on its operations. Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza ordered the PPA to take over the operations of the port. The La Union police and the Philippine Coast Guard were asked to help enforce the DOTC order.

Finally, armed men were sent in to take over the facility. But the security personnel and workers of PPIC barricaded the port. Nevertheless, the armed men were able to occupy part of the port.

The court issued another 72-hour TRO on the BCDA et al. but the raiders said they would not honor it.

Meanwhile, four large cargo vessels at the port cannot unload their cargo of fertilizer while smaller vessels cannot load from their warehouses because of the barricades. The intended recipients of the cargo are impatiently waiting for their consignments.

The businessmen have asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to intervene and let due process of law take its course and prevent them from suffering huge business losses. But what if the whole thing has the blessings of Malacañang? Could it be true that the President is now a hostage to politicians?

However you look at this, it does appear that some government officials are conspiring to forcibly take over the operation of a legitimate business. BHI and the BCDA have a legal contract. The contract was concluded after a public bidding. There is no irregularity linked to the bidding. PPIC was doing its obligations under the contract even if BCDA has not fulfilled all its obligations. Port operations were going smoothly. There were no complaints from shipping operators.

But suddenly, the government wanted to take over the whole operation and the facility simply because of a missing ECC. PPIC was not given a chance to secure that ECC. Instead, administration officials used Gestapo tactics to grab the port.

Decent citizens cannot but be revolted by this use of brute force against ordinary citizens. Can it be that this is now the real policy of the Arroyo administration? I would like to believe that this is more the work of a cabal of rogue public officials who are mad with power. Will the President do something to prevent this miscarriage of justice?

The motive of the BCDA in trying to kick out an investor is suspect. Why is it obsessed with kicking out PPIC, which has been faithfully living up to its part of the deal while allowing another investor to keep Camp John Hay despite billions of pesos in arrears owed to the BCDA?

8 impeachments and a Lozano

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

IF MALACAÑANG'S MINIONS ARE SO SMUG that they can muscle down any impeachment attempt, with more reason they must ensure that the process be seen as fair and even-handed. If in the end they are confident that they have the numbers to bully away the impeachers, shouldn't they at least make some effort to show that they have more than just numbers on their side—maybe, show that they have the god of righteousness in their camp as well (and not just his earthly bishops)—you know, perchance, that old saying about might not making right?

Eight identical complaints were filed on successive days to impeach the President, all calculated to stop lawyer Oliver Lozano from doing a repeat of his 2005 coup. Last year, he pre-empted all other impeachment bids with a weak complaint that was eventually thrown out for being "insufficient in substance," and this year, unfazed, he has threatened to do so once more.

The eight complaints all allege that Ms Arroyo—as ably summarized in the INQUIRER news report—"stole the vote in 2004, muzzled dissent, abetted political killings and diverted the fertilizer fund as largesse to her congressional and local allies to ensure her victory in the presidential election."

Given GMA's penchant for the fine parsing of legal technicality, the conundrum is from what date we must count the one-year bar on the filing of second impeachment case against GMA. Do we reckon the date from June 27, 2005 when Lozano filed his first complaint? Or June 28 when it was endorsed by Alagad Party-List Rep. Rodante Marcoleta? Or July 25 when it was referred to the committee on justice?

The first challenge therefore was to be the first to file on the first possible allowable date (hence, the "Lozano Watch" on the Batasan grounds on the eve of June 26). The next was to file successive complaints, lest a bogus impeacher slip into the sequence; in that scenario, all that a pliant Congress had to do was find its "preferred" impeachment complaint. It would then fix the cut-off date just in time to exclude all prior complainants, allow the bogus impeacher to file (which would then trigger off the one-year rule) and then bar all subsequent complaints. That the eighth impeachment complaint has survived means that the 2005 preemption problem has at least been hurdled.

What is amazing is Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman's twist on the cut-off date, to extend the one-year bar even longer and exclude even more complaints. The Supreme Court has defined the moment that triggers the one-year bar: "when a verified complaint is filed and referred to the Justice Committee for action." The House then adopted that ruling and codified it verbatim into its own Rules on Impeachment.

The Lagman twist now says that the bar extends not just to the date of "referral," but the date of "receipt" by the committee. By that reckoning, all but one of the complaints are deemed premature. And irony of ironies, had Lagman used this formula last year, the Lozano complaint could not have barred the stronger impeachment complaints because all of them were referred to and received by the justice committee on the same day! What a difference a year makes.

But all this hairsplitting is of absolutely no practical effect, because whichever of the eight identical complaints is entertained, the President will still have to answer the same charges. It scores no real triumph for the President, yet it taints the process needlessly. It shows a callous disregard for our capacity for moral indignation.

Several other moves undermine the ideal that proceedings like these "be just and be seen to be just."

Early on, the House deputy secretary general attempted to gag the media, issuing guidelines to bar photographers and live interviews unless allowed by the justice committee. Mercifully, its chair, Rep. Simeon Datumanong, later disowned the gag rule.

The other is the majority's rejection of attempts to preclude conflicts of interest: some congressmen would be passing judgment over impeachment charges in which they have a personal interest. Rep. Roilo Golez moved to inhibit congressmen whose names appeared in the Commission on Audit report on the P728-million fertilizer scandal, which forms part of the impeachment charges. Rep. Teddy Casiño moved to inhibit Rep. Mikey Arroyo. He is related to the accused, his mother, and has been implicated in the *jueteng* payoffs which again, are part of the impeachment charges.

But, says Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.: Why should I inhibit myself? It was I who exposed the fertilizer scam, declared that I never received any of that illicit dung, and now I can't investigate it?

No, indeed, he shouldn't. Not that he is guilty, since he is clearly as much a victim of the hideous scam as all of us. It's the nature of what purports to be a prosecutorial process: it calls for some distance between him who judges and the issue or person he is called upon to adjudge.

And as Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye called the impeachment a circus, the distinguished congressman from Lanao del Sur, Benasing Macarambon, bodily dared a parliamentary colleague to a brawl and had to be pacified. Either someone should have told him not to follow Bunye too literally, or he truly enjoyed watching Nacho Libre.

As surveys show that 56 percent of Filipinos nationwide believe that the impeachment of President Macapagal-Arroyo must be reactivated, a swaggering congressional majority makes us ask whether the Batasan truly houses our representatives. If indeed impeachment has degenerated into a numbers game, then we have lived to see a world, in the words of a legal scholar, "where counters do not think and thinkers do not count."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Pro-poor growth better than pro-poor programs

COMMENTARY

Ernesto M. Pernia

MALACAÑANG EARLIER THIS YEAR announced that the government would fund substantial programs for the poor, such as the provision of subsidized rice, instant noodles and medicines. Funding would come from the reputed P35-billion "budgetary savings," i.e., the difference between the programmed and actual budget deficit in 2005.

Should the government be doing pro-poor programs or focus instead on raising economic growth? This question is not trivial especially for a country under a serious fiscal strain and with chronic poverty.

One of the most robust results of research in development economics is that rapid and sustained economic growth leads to significant long-term poverty reduction and that direct pro-poor programs are inefficient and unsustainable. The experience of our Asian neighbors is a case in point. South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia have been able in just two decades to bring down their poverty to levels close to those of Western countries. Similarly, Thailand and Indonesia which had poverty rates of above 40 percent—comparable to that in the Philippines—in the early 1980s have reduced those rates to below 10 percent and 20 percent, respectively, while Philippine poverty incidence is 30 percent.

Several observers have characterized the economic development of our Asian neighbors as "pro-poor growth." So, what is pro-poor growth? Simply put, it is growth that enables the poor to actively participate in and significantly benefit from economic activity. This is a departure from "trickle down" which means that the benefits of economic growth go to the rich first and the poor gain only indirectly through a vertical flow.

What is needed is a strategy that is biased in favor of the poor so that the poor benefit proportionally more than the rich, thereby allowing faster poverty reduction. In other words, the concern should be about not just how fast the national pie expands but also how the increment to the national pie is distributed. Hence, pro-poor growth requires that the proportional income growth of the poor exceeds the overall average income increase. For instance, if the Philippines' GDP per capita growth rate in 2005 was 2.7 percent (overall GDP growth of 5 percent minus population growth of 2.3 percent), average GDP per capita growth rate for the poor should exceed 2.7 percent in sustained fashion for the country's poverty incidence to go down palpably over time. However, the record shows that the poor gain less than 60 percent of overall per capita income increase, which explains our country's mediocre poverty reduction record.

What policies promote pro-poor growth? A growth strategy that makes efficient use of labor—the poor's principal asset—and makes the required investments in education and health, is good for both growth and distribution. Sound macroeconomic management that emphasizes fiscal prudence and good tax administration results in manageable deficits, and facilitates physical and social investments that benefit the poor besides ensuring long-term growth. Economic openness, underpinned by a realistic exchange rate, promotes exports and foreign direct investment, creates employment, lowers prices of consumer goods and facilitates the adoption of advanced technology for the economy to move up the global value chains. Private sector development, stimulated by a favorable investment climate, generates jobs, raises productivity and reduces the strain on the public sector, thus allowing it to concentrate on the provision of public goods and services. Efficient financial intermediation lowers the cost of capital, eases access to credit and spurs investment and employment growth.

Pro-poor growth also entails the removal of institutional and policy-induced biases against the poor. Discrimination on grounds of class, gender, ethnicity and religion hurts the poor more than the rich. The same is true of artificial barriers to entry into certain trades and occupations, or into the formal sector in general. Big-city-oriented industrial location policies and public infrastructure spending for urban areas tend to be biased against smaller towns and rural areas where there are large concentrations of poor and disadvantaged people. Removal of these biases is likely to enhance market efficiency besides promoting social equity.

The foregoing policies can be reinforced by direct pro-poor measures. These include, among others, adequate public spending for basic education, health and family planning services, easier access to micro-credit, promotion of small and medium enterprises, and targeted infrastructure investments in bypassed or underserved rural areas. Human and physical capital investments favoring the poor will improve their productivity and contribution to the economy.

The above are examples of policies that would promote efficient and equitable growth. Earnest implementation of such policies would result in mean incomes of the poor rising faster than overall average incomes and sustained poverty reduction. Our government already has some of these policies on the drawing board but falls short of consistent and sustained implementation. Thus, rather than get its attention and resources distracted by unsustainable pro-poor programs, it would be better for the government to relentlessly pursue a policy reform agenda that fosters pro-poor growth.

Ernesto M. Pernia is professor of economics at the University of the Philippines, Diliman and formerly lead economist of the Asian Development Bank. E-mail: empernia@up.edu.ph or empernia@zpdee.net.

Superpinoy?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE FULL-PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS WERE EYE-CATCHing. It showed the President in a Superwoman-Darna-Zsazsa Zaturnah outfit, flying high with Mary Joy Bunol, also in a Superwoman outfit but wielding cooking utensils.

"Supermaids!" the ad proclaimed, to announce Tesda's latest training program, all part of Arroyo's latest public relations spin, Superpinoy or Skills Upgrading Program for Employment and Re-employment of Pinoys.

Bunol was featured because the 23-year-old Ilongga had taken one of the training courses and is now serving, and the ad boasts about this in bold letters, a royal family of Malaysia.

Kids, pets and cars

The *super-sobra* hype aside, this Tesda program is intriguing. There are several training modules involved, including personality development, home safety, child care, home management, cooking and care of pets.

Each module is broken down to very specific topics. For example, under personality development, you have topics like personal grooming and communication skills (phone conversations included). Home safety includes handling high-rise, safety-window ladders. Child care is the most impressive, including a module on child growth, behavior and development and other topics such as choosing age-appropriate toys. Home management includes "washing car," "reading label *(sic)* and chemical instructions." Cooking includes "table setting: western, Chinese." And care of the pets includes "how to tame domestic animals."

A minimum of 200 hours training earns a National Certificate I, making you eligible to work as a domestic helper and a monthly salary of US$250 to $350. To get a National Certificate II, which makes you a Supermaid, you have to do 235 hours, which could get you a monthly salary of $350 to $450. More ambitious? Then do 270 hours and get a National Certificate III, which makes you a "Household Service Manager/Valet/Governess" eligible for a salary of $450 and up.

I can imagine my professor friends at UP and other state universities doing some quick mental calculations now with their salaries. Yes, a governess would get the salary of a full professor.

And why not? If the graduates of this program do become proficient caring for kids, pets and cars, they'd not just be supermaids but supermoms and superdads, or, quite simply, supermen and superwomen.

Back to basics

Many families already have these supermen and superwomen, people who have worked for years with the same family, some working for a mere pittance, others getting quite good salaries and considered very much part of the household.

I have an aunt who first hired a teenager, fresh from the provinces, almost 50 years ago to work as a gardener. He's still with them and has become a kind of *mayordomo*. He cooks the finest meals, makes appointments for my aunt, hunts for the latest Korean telenovelas and, yes, still dabbles in the garden. He earns so much that he flies home to Cebu, towing Samsonite luggage (OK, borrowed from my aunt). And when one of my aunt's grandchildren got married some time back, he had a cash wedding gift larger than what some of the official godparents gave.

But these supermen and superwomen pick up their skills on the job over the years, often by trial and error. If they're fast learners, well and good. If malnutrition and infant formula impaired their brain development, then, well, good luck.

Looking at the "supermaid" modules, I first thought: Why can't we have similar programs for helpers who want to serve local households? I know Opus Dei has a training program for domestic helpers.

Then on second thought, I wondered why all this cannot be part of our formal educational system. So many of the topics in the supermaids course are so basic—for example, cooking and cleaning the house—that they really should be integrated into our formal educational system, and, this is important, it should be done for both males and females.

All too often, low-income Filipino parents pull their kids out of high school and send them to work, claiming that the schools offer little that's relevant to life. So why not integrate some of Tesda's "superpinoy" modules into the formal high school curriculum? English would probably be better taught as a "communications skills" module (including banishing that "for a while sir" phrase when asking people to hold); math could be more interesting using examples from marketing, cooking and managing one's allowance. Health and science could integrate child care. Even a pet care module could be taught as part of health and science. We wouldn't have the problem I described in last Wednesday's column of brutal dog slaughtering if Filipino households would just learn about proper and responsible pet ownership.

Too much for our schools? Spread out Tesda's 235-hour curriculum over four years of high school, maybe even two years from elementary school, and you have a very manageable program.

For export only?

The Tesda supermaids program reminds us how export-driven we are when it comes to developing human resources.

Some time back I wrote about how we've been fretting about the brain drain involving doctors and nurses, while forgetting to do something for those who do stay on. We developed a six-month training course to produce exportable caregivers, but have little to offer to upgrade the skills of midwives and barangay health workers, the ones who keep our health care system from totally collapsing.

Tesda comes up with this program to produce supermaids but our public schools are stagnating. When an "innovation" does get proposed, it's for something ridiculous like boxing in elementary and high schools.

I get so depressed when I hear parents telling their children to study hard, so they can work abroad. The supermaid program only reinforces this export mentality, with the idea that you should learn first aid and cooking only if you plan to work as a maid overseas.

The competencies named in the supermaid curriculum are stuff our young Filipinos need to survive. If those competencies are properly integrated into our elementary and high schools, we'd then produce graduates ready to tackle more training for higher-paying jobs, instead of going off to work as underpaid supermaids.

I suspect, too, that if we strengthened our elementary and high school curricula to include not just skills but values around national identity and purpose, we could produce a generation of Filipinos who would be better able to care for their families, as well as the nation. Overseas or at home, we'd have our Superpinoys.

The 'burden' of cervical cancer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVERY TWO MINUTES, SOMEWHERE IN THE world, one woman dies of cervical cancer. Some 500,000 new cases of this cancer are detected each year.

In the Philippines, cervical cancer is the second most-common cancer type among women. In the year 2000, "conservative" estimates placed the number of cervical cancer cases at between 35,000 and 70,000, to which almost 7,000 new cases are added every year.

But it's not the number of women who develop cervical cancer that is most alarming. Of even greater concern is what doctors call its "virulence," or in lay terms, its deadly effect.

For every four Filipino women who survive breast cancer, only two or three will survive cancer of the cervix. In other words, unless the local situation improves, a Filipina who develops cervical cancer is almost twice as likely to die than a woman who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

In a presentation at a recent gathering of the Cervical Cancer Prevention Network Program, Dr. Genara Limson asserted that "cervical cancer is not a disease of old age." The majority of women who die of the disease are "women who are at the peak of their biologically and economically productive ages." And when a woman in the "prime" of her life dies, it's not just a single life that's lost, but rather "a husband loses a wife, the children lose a mother, and the family is destabilized psychologically, financially and socially. The economy, meanwhile, loses a productive pair of hands."

This is what's known as the cervical cancer "burden" in the Philippines—a burden measured not just by lives lost and debilitated, but also by the ripple effect of a diagnosis and a death.

* * *

THE IRONY, of course, is that cervical cancer is a highly preventable disease. In an earlier interview, Dr. Limson remarked that it's a cancer that's "nice" to have. For in contrast to other fast-growing cancers where a diagnosis often means a mere months to live, cervical cancer "has a long pre-cancerous period during which it may be detected and stopped."

Cervical cancer generally takes as long as 10 years and, in some cases 30 years, to develop into "full-fledged malignancy." Says Dr. Limson: "It begins as an abnormality in cervical cells, and this abnormality is detectable through screening tests that are painless, quick and affordable. At this pre-malignant stage, the disease is highly curable. Every woman who is at risk of developing this disease and who would subject herself to periodic screening tests has a good chance during that big, 10-year window of opportunity to detect and stop this disease before it becomes fatal or more costly to treat."

If it is so easily detectable and treatable, why are so many Filipino women dying from cervical cancer? The answer lies in our priorities—for our personal health and in terms of national health policy. "Early detection and treatment is the key to preventing cervical cancer," notes Dr. Limson. "Developing countries that applied this concept by means of a sustained national anti-cervical cancer screening program have greatly benefited. The incidence of cervical cancer in those countries has been reduced by as much as 90 percent, and the number of deaths due to cervical cancer has decreased by 70 percent."

* * *

THE REASON so many Pinays are dying of cervical cancer is that so few of them undergo screening tests. In two of every three new cases diagnosed each year, the women find out they have cervical cancer when the "malignancy was already at its advanced or fatal stage."

Recently, a DOH-PGH study recommended the adoption of the acetic acid wash test (AAW) as the most cost-effective among the available screening tests, since it is more sensitive than the conventional Pap Smear, and has a "specificity" of 94 percent that is quite acceptable. "Compared with the other screening methods, the AAW test also requires less training, equipment and facilities to administer," adds Dr. Limson. The study thus recommended that the AAW be used as the "primary screening tool for a nationwide anti-cervical cancer screening program, particularly in low-income areas and communities that are distant from major hospitals, clinics and laboratories."

Doesn't it strike you as a scandal, for instance, that every summer, health centers and private clinics and hospitals around the country advertise the availability of circumcision (*tuli*) services for pre-pubescent males, while of the large population of women at risk of cervical cancer, only 12 percent have been screened for this disease?

Health authorities say there is little benefit to be gained, aside from social acceptance, from male circumcision. In fact, there are some who condemn the practice outright. But compared to all the promotional effort, funding and social pressure brought to bear on young men to go for the "cut," the spending on public awareness and education, screening, treatment and cure for cervical cancer is almost negligible.

* * *

"CERVICAL cancer has an inherently anti-poor bias," declares Dr. Limson. "This bias is not only because some of the major factors associated with this cancer are quite common among the poor... Due to geography and lack of access to the media, the poor are generally untouched by anti-cancer information campaigns. When such campaigns reach them, their lack of education prevents them from fully appreciating the campaigns' message. And among those who understood the message, their lack of funds and the inaccessibility of government-subsidized facilities may still prevent the poor from seeking early screening and treatment services... In this context, therefore, any anti-cervical cancer campaign is essentially a pro-poor and anti-poverty campaign."

Short notes

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MOST PEOPLE WILL NOT GIVE A BOTTLE OF Ginebra San Miguel a second look on a store shelf. I suspect that even those happily pouring the potent contents into a glass see but do not notice the familiar label showing St. Michael the Archangel wielding his sword and sending the devil down and back to the flames of hell where he belongs. Perhaps it is time for a second deliberate look because the Ginebra San Miguel label was created by Fernando Amorsolo. Many of us can only dream of having an Amorsolo original that fetches millions of pesos at auction in Christie's but many Filipinos can have Amorsolo reproductions in calendars and, of course, the gin label.

Other distinctive, or should we say iconic, labels on store shelves are those on Bear Brand milk and Sun Maid raisins. The milk, once familiarly referred to in Spanish as "Marca Oso" or Bear Brand, shows a polar bear giving her baby milk from a feeding bottle. Nobody seems to think this weird in times when we encourage breastfeeding, but the funnier part is that some people might think that the liquid in the can is bear's milk.

Then there is Sun Maid raisins that come in those brilliant red boxes with a smiling maiden holding a basket of grapes that eventually become raisins. I enjoy raisins by themselves, but hate raisins in any kind of food, even *rellenong bangus*. I think raisins should be eaten alone, but in 1926 the Pacific Company sponsored a contest for the best recipe using Sun Maid raisins. Filipinos are naturally attracted to contests and the yield saw raisins used in *gulaman*, puddings, sorbets, etc. Ciriaca Ysaac of Pasay was made a poster girl for raisins because she attributed her longevity to raisins and was quoted as saying:

"I have been eating raisins all my life. In fact, I might attribute my old age and strength largely to the fact that raisins have been a regular part of my diet. I reached my 78th year yesterday [this was in 1924] and I am still feeling strong and healthy. In my younger years Sun Maid raisins were not on the market. The Malaga raisin was the one sold then."

Ysaac had raisins for breakfast, lunch and dinner. She had raisins in her breakfast *champorado*. She even gave a recipe for raisins in *lumpia guisado*, made from coconut *ubod* and *buro* or pickled mango.

Going through old newspapers and magazines, I pick up the strangest things and get attracted to news or pictures that have resonance in the present. For example, there was an advertisement for Royal Mandarin Orange that could be the ancestor of what we now call "RTO" or Royal True Orange.

Sometimes we make other connections. The Filipino word for bottle cap is "*tansan*," which used to be the brand of bottled water before World War II.

I wonder what future researchers will do with my notebooks and note cards now preserved in the University of the Philippines Archives, thanks to Salvacion Arlante. I have been poring over old notebooks and trying very hard to make sense of the chicken scratch handwriting. With a laptop these days, one just has to battle with misspelling or missing words or letters but the notes are more legible.

I have so many odds and ends that cannot be stretched to fill one column in the op-ed page and that is why I once wrote a very short column, (H)ISTORYA, for Thelma San Juan and hope to resume writing it in the future so that previous research will not go to waste.

What will you do with stray bits of useless information? For example, in 1901 Cpl. Danay Khan attracted the attention of people on the Escolta because of his outfit described as, "yellow and silver puggarree turban with mahommedan peak, long khaki shirt and putties." Khan was reputedly a descendant of the Sepoys who settled in the Philippines after the brief British occupation of Manila in the 18th century. Khan was hired by Watson and Company, a drugstore on Escolta.

There were other items connected to the Filipino-American War that caught my attention in the January and February 1901 issues of the Manila Times. One related the nationalism of the Philippine carabao which was said to have supported the struggle by attacking American soldiers. Mitchell Johnson and two companions were escorting 28 Filipino prisoners who made a bid to escape. All were captured, but eight died in the "confusion." (Perhaps I'm overreading, but I cannot help but guess that this could be an early form of "salvaging.") As the Filipinos ran into the fields pursued by the three Americans, the carabaos attacked the enemy. Johnson was gored and suffered a wound that went from the lower jaw to the roof of his mouth. His speech was impaired for life but, at least, he survived.

Another soldier was gored on the leg and tossed in the air by a carabao. The three soldiers shot at the herd and killed only one carabao after 40 shots.

No wonder Emilio Aguinaldo had such great respect for carabaos—they were part of our struggle for independence.

One day, I should collate all my notes and see what can still be utilized to make this column more engaging. These notebooks are evidence of a time when I was younger and more enterprising. I have enough material to fill columns for the next 50 years.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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Bolante flunked truth test

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

"ROTARIANS SAY BOLANTE hasn't failed the 4-Way Test." (PDI, 7/30/06) As a former Rotarian belonging to the Rotary Club of Cubao, I believe that the Rotary community should tell Jocelyn Bolante to come out and reveal the truth instead of running away from it.

His being in government when he reportedly got involved in the P728-million fertilizer scam does not make the case a political issue. It is a moral issue affecting core values that not only Rotarians but also all decent people uphold.

Government is a service organization. The essence of service is morality. And to serve the people well is a moral responsibility, obligation and duty of all government people.

While he was in government, Bolante failed entirely the Rotary's 4-Way Test. As many Rotarians say, his refusal to tell the truth is irresponsible and cowardly. Running away from the truth is unfair to the people he served; he has created enmities instead of building goodwill and friendship. His refusal to come out in the open has not been beneficial to those concerned, including himself.

To all Rotarians who say that they are apolitical: It is your moral duty, as civic leaders, to see to it that government and those in it do not bring our country to national disaster.

—MAJ. GEN. FORTUNATO ABAT (ret.), fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

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Red tape in LandBank proving costly to old landowner

IT SEEMS THAT "AGENCIES UNfriendly to elderly persons" still abound in our society. I read Cesar Ramos' letter (PDI, 7/18/06) and it prompted me to share my elderly father's own experience.

Some time in the last quarter of last year, he filed his claim for the so-called "Landowners Compensation" under Presidential Decree 27 with the LandBank head office.

After getting some instructions and the list of requirements, my father, who is more than 60 years old, dutifully complied. But after submitting the required documents, his calvary started. He was made to shuttle back and forth between Tarlac (where he is now residing) and Manila either for the submission of more documents, affidavits and whatever, or for the correction of the submitted papers. I think this was partly because the hands that handled my father's account changed several times. But worse, he had to mail documents to his siblings in Mindanao, which added to his expenses and the time spent in following up his claim.

Knowing the frustration of my father, I personally helped him secure the necessary papers and follow up the claim, hoping to speed things up, only to experience for myself the ordeal of having to repeatedly go up that tall LandBank building in Manila and wait for hours to be attended to. But up to now, my father has yet to receive his measly P30,000 claim from LandBank.

The whole thing has taken on a touch of irony. My father has already spent almost the same amount because of the bureaucratic red tape of LandBank. And I have not factored in yet the value of the time and effort (plus anguish) my farmer and retired OFW father has spent for the claim. Enough of idiotic, oppressive systems in our institutions.

I also had this experience similar to what Cleo Alday (PDI, 7/10/06) had with a water utility. The manager of that company's branch office could not explain—and seemed unable to understand—what the charges listed in our bills were for.

Such experiences only reinforce the temptation to just find another country that takes real care of its people. (My apologies to INQUIRER columnist Conrado de Quiros. Nevertheless, I'm still an avid fan of his.)

—RAMIL S. SASI, lecturer, PSBA, Quezon City

gotham

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Why is civil society silent re Sona?

IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION campaign in 2004, the pro-GMA organizations were very visible. In fact, a nationwide caravan punctuated by a big rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio highlighted the NGOs' campaign for President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy. When Ms Arroyo delivered the 2004 State of the Nation Address, the NGOs were inside the gallery of Congress and in the streets to support her.

In 2005, during the height of the political crisis confronting her administration, civil society leaders and members again gathered in droves in front of the Sandiganbayan to support Ms Arroyo's Sona.

The pro-GMA NGOs were also there during the 2005 impeachment hearings in the House of Representatives. In fact, they spent countless days and nights in the gallery of Congress and in the streets exchanging hoots and catcalls with leaders and members of anti-government organizations.

During the failed coup d'etat of February 2006, NGO leaders were all over major television stations expressing support to the administration and condemning the attempted power grab.

In the 2006 Sona, however, the NGOs supporting President Arroyo were nowhere to be found. The so-called pro-government rally along Commonwealth Avenue was a dismal failure and was obviously composed of *hakot* crowds from nearby barangays like Payatas, Holy Spirit and Batasan Hills. When interviewed, most of them admitted to having been paid P25-P50) each; it appeared that 90 percent of them did not really support the administration and in fact voted for another candidate during the 2004 presidential elections.

So where are the pro-GMA NGOs? Could be it that the leaders are now reassessing their stand on the various issues confronting Ms Arroyo and her administration? Could it be that they are now distancing themselves from a President whose popularity has not improved? Could this be a signal that they are now ready to join the opposition?

Ms Arroyo may have delivered a good Sona as gleaned from the several rounds of applause that punctuated her speech. But without civil society's support, her programs will only be seen as elitist and anti-poor.

"*Panahon nang ibalik ang kapangyarihan sa taumbayan*," she declared. But where are the people? Where are the civil society organizations? She seems to have totally forgotten about them.

—CHRISTIAN R. FERNANDEZ, christian_fernandez1968 @hotmail.com

Poor still to feel economic growth

BISHOP ANTONIO TOBIAS, CRIticized the 2006 State of the Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Socio-economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri defended the administration, saying that the 5-6 percent growth in the economy cannot be automatically felt by the poor.

But in the five years of GMA's reign, this "economic growth" has not been felt by the poor. The poor have not benefited from "achievements" and "improvements" that Malacañang has claimed since 2001.

Truly, Malacañang is nestled in an enchanted kingdom. But while administration officials live in a world of fairy tales, Filipinos struggle to survive in the harsh, real world of extreme poverty and hunger.

—MICHELLE LICUDINE, spokesperson, Sanlakas, 150 K6th St., Anonas Ave., QC

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				Dream Music Videos	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Zenki	Yakitate! Japan	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bulusing Walang Kinghing		Sa Piling Mo	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Once A Thief				Fear Factor (Season VI)		Pensacola (Season III)		The Amazing Race 7		WRC 2006 Rally XS	E Buzz	Tears Of The Sun					Red Water
Cartoon Network	Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Tom Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dice	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinemax			Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult (3:25 PM)		Protocol (4:45 PM)			Sleepless In Seattle (5:15 PM)				Bloodsport			Devour			A Cry In The Dark	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	World Your World Today			
Crime&Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Prison Break	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Ant Attack/Un-ferocious Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Emperor's New School	America's Funniest Home Video	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		World Snooker Tour: World Champs 06						LPGA Golf CN Canadian Women's Open 1st Rd				Maradona: Downfall of a God		Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thursday				
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Everwood 2		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (DeGeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Haiku	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Sustaren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	News and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panibagong (3:45 PM)	Judging Amy	Saluyot	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		Lux NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Conspr Heroes	Bubble Gang		Regenesis	Saksi
Hallmark Channel						Sen. Thomas F. B. Eye II Vanity Fair (9:15 PM)		Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Hustle							Anchorman: The Legend Of Ron Burgundy
HBO			Major Payne								The Marksman			Bone Ep 04: Slipping From Saturn		Bone Ep 05: The Barn Hall Incident/ The Wall (9:55 PM)	Bone Ep 06: Fione (10:45PM)		Naruto
Hero TV	Rafio-Oh	Combattler V	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar: The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Daman Bakugaiden	Ba-bigo G-Revolution	Rafio-Oh	Combattler V	
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics: Anns Mad TV		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines		EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Back Track				Sweat	X-Play	Heat				That 70s Show	Everybody Hate Chris	Family Guy	American Dad	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Primetime Click	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV Hits	MTV Hits					Get Spotted	Making The Mo-vie: Miami Vice	MTV Dives		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Handpicked Up Dharma Down		
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Yaka 5	MYXILOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	Nat Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Hurricane				Top 5 - Hijack		WOW! Thunder Beats		About Asia		Nat Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Hurricane		Relentless Enemies	
NBN		Tricycle Yan Alas-tres		Television Sports Asia	Divas Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?			GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Television Final Edition				Reality OCW With Susan K			
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today			News Beat (Live)		Openline (Live)	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles F E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	Gabay Sa Kaluluan	PWTV Journal News	Convergence
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Danny Phantom/ The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO									Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Damo	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
Qtv	Goodluck	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight/ Sony Music Vidoh				Cross Ng Himala		Days ng Kabuhayan		Shepards Voice		Sony Music Video	
SBN 21								Beach Volleyball: FIVB Women's Switzerland World Game		Boxing: B. Works vs. D. Romero w/ D. Gabi						Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Indonesia Open: MS	
Solar Sports		2006 Jones Cup				Nelson's Water Ski: Williams v Divenport				Racewords		Nopi Tunsrivison	BM Scuba Diving	BD Mexican Riviera	Wild Side Boston	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	The International Day1	
Sports Plus				World's Greatest Auto Show Hyprn		All-Stars 400 Highlights								Walking Tall			Alexander		
Star Movies			Faultline			Trump Unauthorized			Man On Fire (9:35 PM)					Third Watch					
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Living With Fran (9:10PM)	Will & Grace 8	NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23								Superman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Nginiig		Ghost Whisperer (8:20 PM)			News Central	Oprah		Reality World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

UK cops stop plot to blow up planes

Latest terror plot echoes 1995 'Project Bojinka' hatched in Manila

From page A1

The year was 1995.

While there are no known links to the plot that British officials said they uncovered to bring down multiple airlines, the parallels to the plan foiled 11 years ago in the Philippines are striking.

Dubbed "Project Bojinka," it was the first sign that large-scale plane attacks were being considered by terror groups.

Chief Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, one of several Philippine police intelligence officers who uncovered the Bojinka plot, said the plan called for nitroglycerine or other explosives to be hidden in containers like contact lens fluid bottles.

Mendoza said al-Qaida had to be considered as a suspect in the London plot.

Signature MO is there

"The modus operandi is the same, the method of delivery, the signature is there," he said. "It might not be clear now, but there is a clear sign there, there is a parallelism in the mode of attack, delivery of the attack: mid-air explosions."

"These people are obsessed," Mendoza said. "They will try and try and try again to accomplish their missions. Failure is like an insult and reflection of a weakness."

Ramzi Yousef—the alleged mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing—was convicted in a US trial in 1996 for the plot, along with Abdul Hakim Murad and Wali Khan Amin Shah.

Yousef also was found guilty of killing a man with a bomb on a Philippine Airlines jet in 1994 that prosecutors called a test run.

Manila apartment

Prosecutors in the trial said the bombings would have killed 4,000 people in planes flying to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu and New York. The terrorist plot was aimed at forcing the United States to pull out of the Middle East and stop supporting Israel.

Prosecutors said the plan was hatched in the Philippines, where Yousef had turned his Manila apartment into a bomb factory. It was foiled by Murad's arrest in January 1995 after fire broke out in the apartment.

But the concept didn't die there.

Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammed told investigators that he kept the core idea of Bojinka in place, initially proposing to Bin Laden in 1996 that al-Qaida operatives hijack 10 planes—five on each American coast. Then he began refining the plan, according to interrogation reports reviewed by The Associated Press.

At one point, Mohammed said, he considered using a shoe bomb—something British radical Richard Reid tried after Sept. 11. At another point, he said the plan resembled "a smaller version of Bojinka." *AP*

From page A1

had disrupted a plot against aircraft which was "intended to be mass murder on an unimaginable scale," Deputy Police Commissioner Paul Stephenson said.

Police arrested 21 people in London and its suburbs, and in Birmingham, central England. Searches continued in a number of locations.

The suspects were "homegrown," although it was not immediately clear if they were all British citizens, the unnamed police official said, adding that investigators were working with the South Asian community.

The security alert comes 13 months after four British Islamist suicide bombers killed 52 people and injured about 700 on London's transport network.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, vacationing in the Caribbean, briefed US President George W. Bush on the situation overnight, Blair's office said.

Britain's Home Secretary John Reid said the alleged plot was significant, and that terrorists aimed to "bring down a number of aircraft through mid-flight explosions, causing a considerable loss of life."

Target: 3 US airlines

Two US counterterrorism officials said the terrorists were targeting US carriers United Airlines, American Airlines and Continental Airlines. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

"We believe that these arrests (in London) have significantly disrupted the threat, but we cannot be sure that the threat has been entirely eliminated or the plot completely thwarted," US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said.

Passengers faced delays as tighter security was hastily enforced at the country's airports and additional measures were put in place for all flights. British Airways said some flights were likely to be canceled.

Laptop computers, mobile phones, iPods and remote controls were among the items banned from being carried on board.

Liquids, such as hair care products, were also barred. Chertoff's statement raised the possibility that authorities were searching for a liquid explosive.

"Due to the nature of the threat revealed by this investigation, we are prohibiting any liquids, including beverages, hair gels and lotions from being carried on the airplane," Chertoff said.

Laptop computer

Independent terrorism expert Paul Beaver said hand luggage was a weak spot in airport security.

"A laptop computer can carry enough explosives to blow up an aircraft," he said.

"Hold baggage and cargo can be sniffed for explosives. You can't do that for hand luggage at the moment. The technology is there, but it's time consuming and expensive."

Beaver said the nature of the alleged plot suggested a connection to al-Qaida.

"In the last two months, al-Qaida promised that it would avenge Iraq and Afghanistan by attacking British and American aviation assets—I see a direct link with that," he said.

Britain has come under fire from Islamist militants for its military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Security barriers

Huge lines formed at ticket counters and behind security barriers at Heathrow and other airports in Britain.

Ed Lappen, 55, a businessman from Boston who was traveling with his wife and daughter to Russia, found himself unable to travel further.

"We're safe, we're OK," Lappen said at Heathrow. "Now my daughter is going to get a shopping trip in London."

The Department of Transport advised all passengers that they would not be permitted to carry any hand baggage on board any aircraft departing from any airport in the country.

Prescription medicines were OK; so were eyeglasses but not their cases, the department said. Contact lenses could be taken aboard in their cases, but bottles of solution were banned.

Passengers were also advised that no electrical or battery powered items, including laptops and mobile phones, could be carried into the cabin.

'Really scared'

"I'm terrified really, I'm really scared." said Sarah Challiner, 20, who was waiting to board a flight from Manchester airport. However, she said she was reassured by her friends who worked as aircraft cabin crew.

"Eight hours without an iPod, that's the most inconvenient thing," said Hannah Pillinger, 24, also in Manchester.

London's Heathrow airport was the departure point for a devastating terrorist attack on a Pan Am Boeing 747 on Dec. 21, 1988. The blast over Lockerbie, Scotland, killed all 259 people aboard Pan Am Flight 103 and 11 people on the ground.

The explosive was hidden in a portable radio which was placed in checked baggage.

A Scottish court convicted Libyan intelligence agent Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi of the bombing in 2001 and sentenced him to life imprisonment. A second Libyan was acquitted.

In 2003, Libya officially accepted responsibility for the attack and agreed to pay relatives of each bombing victim at least $5 million.

Reports from AP and Reuters

Naia on alert ...

From page A1

west Airlines flights are scheduled to leave for the US early today.

Bring on board

Following an advisory from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Miaa said baby formula, breast milk and juice could be brought on board if the passenger is traveling with a baby or small child.

Also allowed are prescription medicine with the name of the patient on it matching the name on the passenger's ticket. Insulin and other essential nonprescription medicines are also allowed.

The TSA and Miaa said beverages bought in the terminal's sterile areas (the areas after the final security check) must be consumed before boarding the aircraft.

Emergency meeting

Protective security measures include "the rigid inspection of vehicles at all security checkpoints leading to the airport," the Miaa said in the memo signed by Angel Atutubo, Miaa assistant general manager for security and emergency services.

CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL: Airport police at the Naia departure area inspect a package belonging to Canada-bound passenger Protacio Gonzales after British and US authorities on Thursday uncovered a plot to blow up planes in mid-flight. JESS YUSON

As of press time last night, the Airport Security Committee was still holding an emergency meeting to discuss what security measures to implement at the Naia in light of the latest terrorist plot.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: July 25, 2006
Loan No.: MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp05.NPS2TLSS. Vt-0066

1. The ***National Power corporation (NPC)*** has received a loan from the ***Miyazawa Funds*** for ***Negros-Panay Interconnection Project*** **(Stage 2)** and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract ***Survey, Design Supply of Materials/ Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Negros-Panay (Stage 2 – OHTL & S/S) Project.***
2. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)*** administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:
   Survey, Design, Supply of Materials/Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Negros-Panay (Stage 2 – OHTL & S/S) Project
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the ***Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department***, Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting July 31, 2006 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Thirty Thousand Pesos (PHP 30,000.00).***
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:
   Two Hundred Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty Seven US Dollars (US$219,447.00)
   The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.
   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on August 17, 2006.
   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on September 28, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for the project is **450 calendar days.**
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 28,August 4 & 11, 2006)

Trans Co
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations & Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Refurbishment of Corroded Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line (From BCFTPP Gantry to Tower No. 112)

The proposed project is located in Batangas Province with an estimated length of 39.935 linear kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor and materials (excluding Overhead Ground Wire), supplies, tools and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardwares in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

[TRANS-06-RCOGWCSR-EG-08-PB2]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) intends to apply the sum of ***Three Million One Hundred Thousand (Php 3,100,000.00)*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line (From BCFTPP Gantry 1 to Tower No. 112).* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission (From BCFTPP Gantry to Tower No. 112).* Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Electrical Works"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Electrical Works (Power Transmission & Distribution)."*** respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving experience installation/construction of transmission lines rated to 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***August 17, 2006, 1:30 P.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by *sixty (60) working days.*

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 7 - 16, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***August 17, 2006, 1:00 P.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***August 17, 2006, 1:30 P.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***August 25-31, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php 2,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***August 25-31, 2006, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***September 1, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Binan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***September 13, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***September 13, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), San Vicente Binan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086, 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC Chairman

(PDI--August 5 & 11, 2006)

Trans Co
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations & Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Kalayaan-Gumaca 230 kV Transmission Line 2 (Phase I)

The proposed project is located in Quezon Province with an estimated length of 20.759 linear kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all materials, labors, superintendence, supplies, tools, and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardwares in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

[TRANS-06-ROHGWKGP1-EG-17]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) intends to apply the sum of ***Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Seven & 90 100 (Php 5,953,557.90)*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire Along Kalayaan-Gumaca 230kV T/L2 (Phase I).* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the *refurbishment of corroded overhead ground wire along kalayaan-gumaca 230kV T/L 2 (Phase I).* Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Specialties"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B-Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution).*** respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving supply of materials, labor, tools and equipment including superintendence for the rehabilitation/ replacement/installation/construction of transmission lines rated 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***August 23, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***60 calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 7 - August 18, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00.*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***August 23, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***August 23, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***September 6-8, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php 2,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***September 6-8, 2006, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***September 14, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco. SLOM San Vicente Binan, Laguna

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***September 28, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***September 28, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(Sgd.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI--August 5 & 11, 2006)

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GMA seen key to row in Poro Pt. port

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PRIVATE OPERATOR of the Poro Point port will seek the intervention of President Macapagal-Arroyo in putting a stop to the takeover by the government ports authority of port operations especially if government agencies continue to defy a court injunction against the gestapo-style takeover.

Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) president Emmanuel Moran said in a statement: "The situation calls for the intervention and direct hand of decision makers in government, particularly the executive department, to halt the impending breakdown in the system of law and order."

"No matter what plans and programs are projected by the President in her administration, if her allies cannot be reigned in, then all these plans will remain empty and meaningless promises."

Moran is contesting the move by Philippine Ports Authority to take control of the La Union port last Saturday solely based on a finding by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that it had been operating with no environment clearance certificate. PPIC obtained a temporary restraining order from the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court last Monday but the PPA merely ignored this order.

"This is another example of gangland operations as persons in authority known to be close allies of the current dispensation are able to simply disregard the courts of law, and do whatever they please, to say the least, to local business and particularly those directly involved in converting the former US military facilities into productive use," said Moran.

ARMED personnel of the Philippine Ports Authority stand guard as the agency takes over operations at the Poro Point port. The port operations resumed after a brief standoff, but its private operator is bracing for a long legal battle to fend off attempts to rescind its contract to operate the port on the basis of environmental charges. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Moran has accused the BCDA of conspiring to "strangle an otherwise well meaning enterprise" as the agency has been pressuring them to bail out of their 25-year contract to operate the port since 2001 even though they have not been remiss in their commitments to the government.

Moran said the BCDA has no right to kick them out of the port facility because even the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) has opined that its contract was binding and in order.

Moran noted that it was the government who had been remiss in delivering on its commitment as it has only given 18 hectares of the 80 hectares that it had contracted to give to the port operator.

Moran noted that PPIC had been parrying efforts by the BCDA to terminate its contract which was being carried out despite warnings from the agency's own legal counsel that such a move was illegal. Moran cited a November 2004 letter by BCDA's legal counsel Arnel Paciano Casanova who said: "It is the height of irresponsibility to recommend the termination of the contract with BHI without clearly explaining or pointing out the facts and the laws that would support it."

But the BCDA is claiming that its move to terminate the contract was only meant to correct the erroneous deal made during the Estrada administration, specifically on the P50 million a year lease payment which was already equal to the P50 million earnings of the port in 1999.

The BCDA noted that the government had lost P384 million in foregone revenues from berthing terminal and other port fees that were assigned under the contract to the private operator.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, who was instrumental in the downfall of Estrada and the rise to power of Ms Arroyo, also mentioned the same reasons for the takeover of the port.

His relatives have been appointed to key positions in the Poro Point Management Corp., a government-run corporation.

Singson was said to be behind the takeover, but the governor said he did not have a hand in it.

The BCDA called the action of the DENR and Department of Transportation and Communications as a "timely intervention" that should restore normal operations and increased revenues in Poro Point which was being groomed as the country's air-and-seaport gateway to the north.

Court extends to 20 days TRO against port takeover

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—THE REGIONAL trial court in San Fernando City extended to 20 days the 72-hour temporary restraining order it issued to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and other agencies that ordered them to stop the takeover of the Poro Point seaport.

The TRO, which expired on Thursday, was issued by Judge Robert Cawed against PPA general manager Silverio Sevilla, PPA port manager Silverio Mangaoang Jr., Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and officials of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC).

Despite the conflict, operations at the seaport have been continuous since Tuesday and vessels have not stopped unloading their cargo at the port's two piers.

Consignees of cargo at the seaport said they were confident that the PPA could control the situation.

"The situation is more stable now as the port's gates are open and our trucks can enter. In fact, we have more vessels coming in next week," said Nomer Merfe, operations manager of the Soil Tech Agricultural Products. The firm has two vessels docked at the seaport.

Environment flaw

On July 26, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources ordered the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) to stop operating the Poro Point seaport because of lack of environmental compliance certificate and alleged violations of environmental laws.

Mendoza then ordered the PPA to take over the port's operations, including stevedoring, arrastre, berth management and special services related to cargo handling.

Silverio Mangaoang Jr., PPA port manager, said the hearing for the preliminary injunction set on Thursday morning did not push through after PPA lawyers walked out of the proceedings. The lawyers cited procedural lapses by the court.

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay said if the PPA would not honor the new TRO, the company would file other cases against Mangaoang or ask the court to cite him in contempt.

"We are considering several options ... But we will exhaust all legal actions if the PPA will continue to defy the order of the court. We hope we are still a country of laws," Dulay said in a telephone interview.

Court questioned

The PPA cited Presidential Decree 1818 that prohibits courts from issuing restraining orders or preliminary injunction against public utilities operated by the government.

PPA and PPIC officials also denied knowing the involvement of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson in the takeover.

Mangaoang said he did not know if Singson had a hand in the takeover, adding that he had not seen the governor in the seaport for a long time.

"We have competence in cargo handling," Mangaoang said.

Rene Venturina, PPIC port manager, said he did not know anything about Singson's supposed hand in the takeover.

Venturina said the PPIC only wanted to continue operating the port.

A businessman said five trucks servicing the fertilizer companies were vandalized. The windshields of two trucks were smashed, the side mirror of one was broken and the wheels of two others were punctured. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Travails of a woman in constant evacuation

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

INDANAN, SULU—NINETEEN days after giving birth, Indal Udjal, 24, had to literally run out of harm's way just to save her family.

On the night of Aug. 1, bombs rained on Indal's village of Kagay. It was the second day of the military's Oplan Ultimatum, which aimed to flush out local and foreign terrorists reportedly hiding in Indanan.

Indal grabbed her newborn son, Uttoh, with her right hand, held her daughter Nurfah with the other, and ran as fast as she could into the night.

A drizzle had made the unpaved road slippery, but there was no stopping her.

"It was very dark, but I didn't mind it. I am afraid of so many soldiers entering our village," Udjal said at a makeshift evacuation center in Bato-bato village, where she and her family sought refuge.

Her husband Ibba said all he managed to grab were a few family belongings.

It was the second time that the family had to leave home since 2000. They and about 500 other families are now staying in the evacuation centers.

But for Udjal Jausal, Indal's father, the couple's experience appeared to be just the start as peace and order conditions on the island remained uncertain.

Jausal, 55, said people his age could tell of so many stories about leaving their homes in times of war that these had become too common even for the new generation of Tausug.

He said he could not avoid remembering some of his own experiences.

Jausal first fled Jolo in 1972, when fighting between soldiers and Moro rebels had escalated. "We fled to the hinterlands to escape the war," he said in Filipino.

In Maimbung, where he later got married, Jausal said he was again at the crossfire of soldiers and rebels.

INDAL Udjal, 24 years old, with her youngest son 24-day Uttoh, from Sitio Laum Saing, Barangay Kagay in Indanan seek refuge inside one of the classrooms of Barangay Bato-bato Elementary School. JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

"My eldest daughter Indal was in her teens and my two sons were small then. We again evacuated to Indanan. But when we got there, Indanan was also being bombed so we have to leave again," Jausal said.

Maydelin Bahjin, former social welfare chief of the province, said most of those who fled their homes on Aug. 1 had been displaced by earlier hostilities.

"The majority of these people are considered displaced even before the fresh operations started because they have not gone back to their places of origin, which they left during previous wars," she said.

Marine commander Lt. Col. Martin Pinto confirmed Bahjin's observation.

"When we did a survey and series of dialogue with residents and officials of three barangays in Patikul for a water project we help built, we learned that the majority of the residents there were not really natives of the place, most of them came from nearby towns," Pinto said.

For Jausal, his only hope of returning to Kagay, his home for quite sometime now, is for the war to stop.

"We got used to fleeing, but it's very tiring and time-consuming. I just hope the government will already stop the war so we could enjoy our harvest," he said.

But for the military, a ceasefire at this point would defeat the purpose of Oplan Ultimatum, which was launched to capture top Indonesian terrorists Omar Patek, Dulmatin and Jandala, and Abu Sayyaf leaders Khadaffy Janjalani and his followers.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, commander of Task Force Comet, said the military was determined to finish the mission.

Since the clashes started, at least seven Abu Sayyaf gunmen, including sub-leader Ismin Sahiron were killed while the government suffered seven fatalities.

As of yesterday, the operation was continuing although Aleo acknowledged that the movement of soldiers was being slowed down by heavy downpour.

"We needed to deploy more soldiers," he said.

Aleo said the military's target was precise so that no civilian was in danger.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, Southern Command deputy chief, said the success of the operation would really depend on the precision of the military's maneuvers.

Terror groups tagged in 2 bomb attacks

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST SIX persons, including an Army bomb expert and a police officer, were injured in separate explosions here and in Kidapawan City in North Cotabato yesterday, authorities said.

Supt. Peraco Makakua, Cotabato City police chief, said two unidentified motorcycle-riding men tossed a hand grenade at the main gate of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao regional office here about 1:35 p.m.

Makakua said the blast injured two members of the Regional Security Force (RSF) and a policeman manning the gate.

Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, Cotabato City police spokesperson, identified the wounded as Manny Mayo and Ampal Baya, both of the RSF, and PO1 Mario Langiles.

Obatay said ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan was not in the compound when the blast occurred.

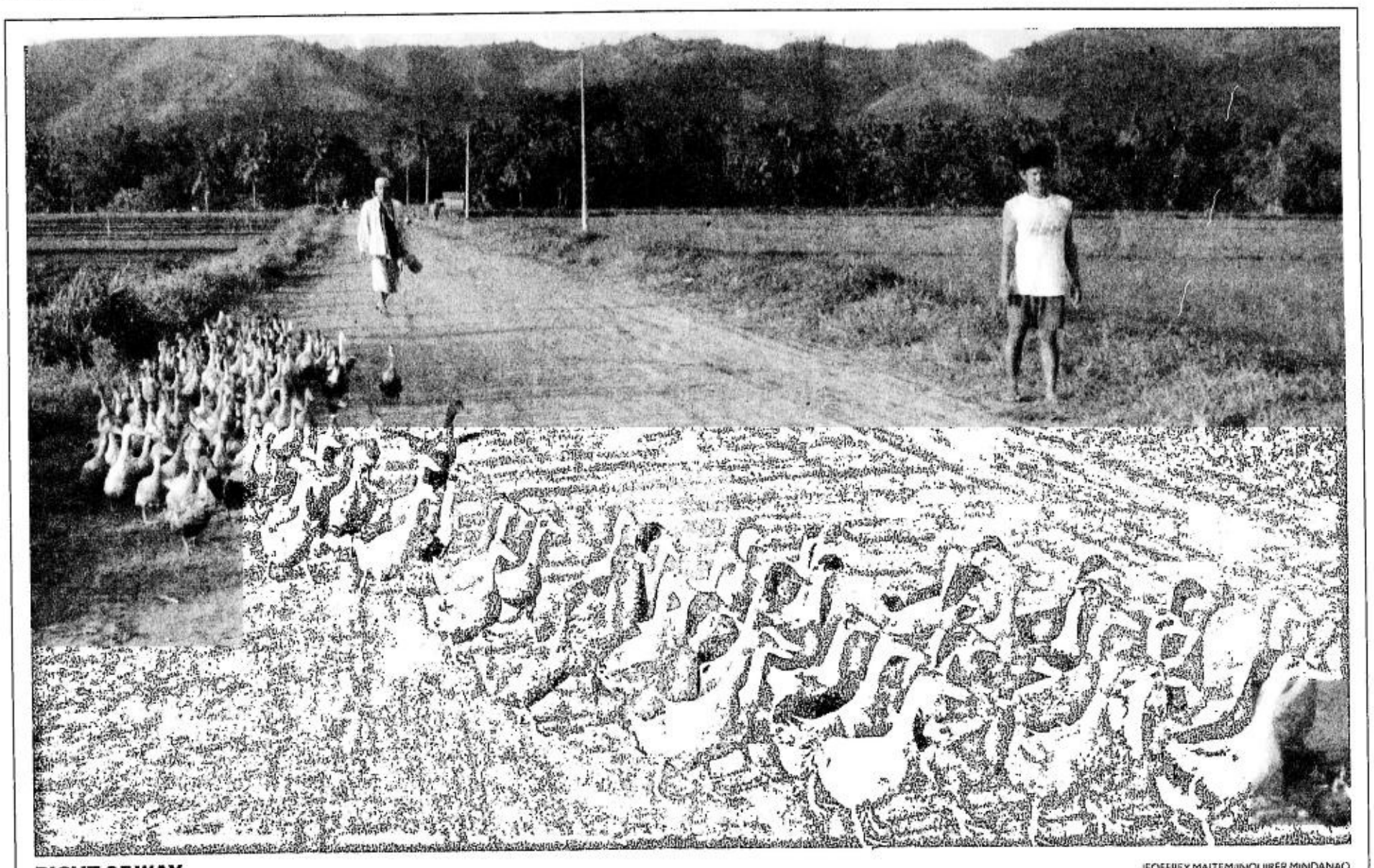
Makakua said it was an apparent terror attack carried out by the Abu Sofia, a group allied with the Abu Sayyaf.

He said the attack could be a diversionary tactic as authorities pounded Abu Sayyaf positions in Sulu.

In Kidapawan City, a member of the Army's explosive ordnance team and two civilians were injured in two explosions about 30 minutes apart, Chief Insp. Leo Alejo, city police director, said.

Alejo said the first explosion occurred in front of the AJ Hi-Time Hotel on JP Laurel Street about 11:15 a.m.

Alejo said later, another bomb was found at a parked vehicle outside Sheer Marketing on Quezon Boulevard. *Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez, Nash Maulana and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*



JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

RIGHT OF WAY
Farmers guide their ducks across a road in the village of Blingkong in Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat. Duck-raising is one of the sources of livelihood of farmers in the village.

Huge waves in Tawi-Tawi, landslides in Davao Sur kill 7, destroy houses

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AT LEAST seven people were killed while five others were missing when natural calamities hit Tawi-Tawi and Davao del Sur, officials said yesterday.

In Tawi-tawi, tropical storm "Inday" triggered huge waves early yesterday, which swept houses on stilts owned by the Samah people in the towns of Tandubas, Sitangkay and Mapun, according to Gov. Sadikul Sahali.

"Everyone was caught by surprise when the waves hit. One child was killed while another one remains missing," Sahali said.

He said strong winds triggered the waves that flattened many houses.

Sahali said it was fortunate that the Samah people were good swimmers because their skills greatly reduced the number of casualties.

Sahali said the damage caused by the waves has yet to be known as they were giving priority to providing assistance to displaced families numbering about 500.

"The evacuees are staying in Bongao," he said.

On Balut Island in Sarangani, Davao del Sur, six people were killed while five others remain missing when a landslide buried a house on Tuesday afternoon.

Mayor Jerry Cawa said two families were in a house in Conel village.

As of yesterday, Cawa said they have managed to retrieve four bodies but have yet to identify these.

"We have been experiencing heavy rains for about a week now and the search operation was being hampered by the unstable ground in the area," Cawa said.

Supt. Anselmo Pinili, police chief for Davao del Sur, said the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) in Southern Mindanao has sent a helicopter to help in the search effort but bad weather prevented the team from landing on Balut Island.

The Balut Island incident was the third disaster to hit the province this month.

On Wednesday, monsoon waves also battered at least four villages of Sta. Cruz town, damaging 122 houses along the coasts.

Sta. Cruz Mayor Jerome Undalok said one resident was injured when the waves swept the houses while another resident remained missing after the incident.

The floods also destroyed agricultural crops in the town.

The stormy weather was not related to a super typhoon churning toward China's southeast coast on Thursday, a forecaster said.

Nearly 3,000 people were brought to a mosque and several public schools serving as temporary shelters in Tawi-Tawi as soldiers and police officers searched the sea for survivors.

"It's like a thief in the night," said Albert Que, a local mayor. "Most of the people were caught by surprise as winds and waves ate their homes before dawn on Thursday."

Que appealed for food, warm clothes and other relief materials for the displaced.

Disaster officials are currently sending emergency supplies to nearly 40,000 people sheltering from the possible eruption of Mayon volcano.

Extreme weather and natural disasters often hit the Philippines, which sits on a seismically active stretch of the Pacific basin. *Julie S. Alipala, Aquiles Z. Zonio and Eldie S. Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao with a report from Reuters*

Church leads signature bid to block STL in Dumaguete

By Romy G. Amarado
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—THE DIOcese of Dumaguete, through its Diocesan Council of the Laity, will spearhead a signature campaign objecting the entry of the small town lottery (STL) in any city and municipality in its jurisdiction.

Woodrow Maquiling, the Council of Laity president, said the campaign will start anytime this month or early next month, in 17 municipalities and four cities of Negros Oriental and in the province of Siquijor that belong to the Diocese of Dumaguete.

The Diocese of Dumaguete covers the towns of Basay, Sta. Catalina, Siaton, Zamboanguita, Dauin, Bacong, Valencia, Sibulan, San Jose, Amlan, Pamplona, Mabinay, Manjuyod, Bindoy, Ayungon, Tayasan and Jimalalud and the cities of Bayawan, Dumaguete, Tanjay and Bais and the province of Siquijor.

Maquiling said the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has been very aggressive in pushing for STL and might suddenly open a terminal within the jurisdiction of the diocese, hence, the signature campaign.

He said the group wants its sentiment known to the PCSO even if the provincial government had already expressed opposition to the STL because some city or municipal mayors might be convinced to allow the government-sponsored lottery in their localities.

Maquiling, a former vice mayor of Dumaguete, said the signature campaign is mandated by a resolution passed last June yet by the Council of the Laity but the plan was not put into action pending the signing of the resolution by Dumaguete Bishop John Du. The bishop signed the resolution about two weeks ago.

"The opening of small town lottery terminals will be a prelude to negative influences prejudicial to the economic, mental, social, moral and spiritual well-being of the community," the resolution said.

It added that the opening of STL terminals would just weaken the economic gains achieved by Negros Oriental and Siquijor as millions of pesos of betting money that might be used to open new businesses would instead be remitted to Manila and deprive the towns of capital needed to generate employment for thousands of people.

Army troopers remove mines laid out for medical team

By Felipe V. Celino
Inquirer Visayas

ROXAS CITY—SOLDIERS BElonging to the Philippine Army's 47th Infantry Battalion recovered landmines Wednesday afternoon at the boundary of Tapaz, Capiz and Calinog, Iloilo where its medical and dental mission team was about to pass.

A civilian alerted the Army about the presence of the landmines in the morning of the same day, just hours before the medical and dental mission team was to pass by the road on their way to Barangay Acuña in Tapaz, according to Capt. Renante Besa, information officer of the 3rd Infantry Division, the mother unit of the 47th IB.

A squad of 47th IB's Charlie Company, led by 1Lt. Roel Tabas, recovered one 81 mm live mortar and one antipersonnel claymore mine with blasting cap. A 10-meter detonating cord was also recovered from the vicinity of Barangay Garangan Calinog, Iloilo, a few meters from where the live ammunition was found.

A claymore mine is a deadly explosive device placed on top of the ground that can be detonated remotely, according to information obtained from the British Broadcasting Company website (news.bbc.co.uk).

Besa said that if a claymore mine detonates, it could easily destroy a loaded six-by-six truck.

Besa said the landmines were purposely intended for the soldiers who would conduct a medical and dental mission in Barangay Acuña on the same day.

The medical and dental mission proceeded despite the discovery of the landmines, Besa said.

P900-M Japan-funded bridge to start in Dagupan

DAGUPAN CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday led national and local government officials in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the P904-million Pantal Bridge, a seven-span structure that aims to reduce traffic and cut travel time in the city.

The bridge is among the 64 bridges under Package 3 of the Urgent Bridge Construction Project for Rural Development funded by a loan agreement with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Ms Arroyo said about 200 projects are under the P8-billion package, but the Pantal Bridge alone costs 10 percent of the total loan package.

"Pantal Bridge is the only long-span bridge of the bridges that will be built nationwide under the Japan facility that is why it costs much more than the other bridges," she said.

Ms Arroyo said while the city does not belong to the country's rural areas, it was extended a loan because Speaker Jose de Venecia, who represents the fourth district where the city is located, was "active" in getting funds for the bridge construction.

Assisting the President during the groundbreaking ceremonies were De Venecia, Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani, Mayor Benjamin Lim and Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

The 330-meter bridge connects the 5-km Dawel-Pantal-Lucao diversion road.

De Venecia said the bridge was a realization of the city's "100-year dream."

He said a bridge used to connect Pantal village to the mainland but this was washed away by a flood decades ago.

"We should thank the Japanese people for paying their taxes, enabling their government to grant loans to us," De Venecia said.

Yamazaki said his country was happy to help the Philippines build bridges.

"We are grateful to the government of Japan because it has more projects lined up for the Philippines," Ms Arroyo said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

RAY ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo leads groundbreaking rites for the construction of a P900-million bridge in Dagupan City.

Meet set to plan bridges linking Visayas islands

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—GOVERNORS in the Visayas will converge here on Aug. 31 to discuss the proposed bridges that will link the three Visayan regions.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said he offered to host the meeting to discuss the projects that he fully supports.

Marañon said the meeting was covered by a memorandum signed by Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, president of the League of Provinces of the Philippines, informing all 16 governors of the Visayas that the meeting will tackle one of the major infrastructure projects of the national government—the proposed bridges from Western to Central to Eastern Visayas.

Invited to the meeting were Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri and Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Aumentado said in his letter.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. was also invited to the meeting to discuss programs of the AFP in the Visayas.

Marañon has been pushing for the construction of bridges to link the Visayas to boost the regions' tourism and economy.

Western Visayas (Region 6) is composed of the provinces of Panay Island—Iloilo, Antique, Aklan and Capiz; the island-province of Guimaras; and half of Negros Island, Negros Occidental.

Central Visayas (Region 7) is composed of the island-provinces of Cebu, Bohol and Siquijor and the other half of the Negros Island, Negros Oriental.

Eastern Visayas (Region 8) covers the provinces of Leyte and Southern Leyte on Leyte Island; the Samar Island provinces of Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar; and the island-province of Biliran.

So far, only the islands of Leyte and Samar have been connected by a bridge, the 2.16-km San Juanico Bridge, the longest bridge in the country. It was built in 1973 during the Marcos regime.

Building the bridges linking the major islands of the Visayas have been proposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo as part of the infrastructure projects under the proposed "Central Philippines Super Region" that the President announced during her State of the Nation Address last month.

Ex-PSG chief named Isafp head

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A MAJOR REVAMP HAS BEEN INSTITUTED just two weeks into the term of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., with key command posts given to officers who stayed loyal to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the February coup attempt.

Army Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, who served as chief of the Presidential Security Group from 2003 until July 12, will head the Intelligence Service of the AFP, according to well-placed sources.

The current Isafp chief, Comm. Leonardo Calderon, is now deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J2), one of the most prestigious posts in the military.

Calderon replaced Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang, who bolstered the military's contention that ex-Scout Rangers chief Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin planned to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo on Feb. 24.

Maclang was given command of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Samar, a communist hotbed.

Maj. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo, the current Army Inspector General who recommended court-martial for Lim and other Scout Ranger officers shortly after the failed coup, was given the juicy post of deputy chief of staff for plans and programs (J5).

J5 has assumed the tasks of the office of the deputy chief of staff for comptrollership (formerly J6), which was abolished as a result of the scandal on the unexplained wealth of Carlos Garcia, a former chief comptroller and retired major general.

Bocobo, a classmate of Esperon's at the Philippine Military Academy, replaced Maj. Gen. Romeo Alamillo who was assigned Air Force vice commanding general.

Alamillo (PMA Class 1973), will not retire until Nov. 3.

Brig. Gen. Jaime Buenaflor (PMA '77), current chief of the Civil Relations Service (CRS), was named deputy chief of staff for civil military operations (J7).

Approved on Aug. 8

Comm. Amable Tolentino, another classmate of Esperon's and former head of the Office of Legislative Affairs, will take over as CRS chief.

The appointments were approved on Aug. 8 by Ms Arroyo on the recommendation of the AFP Board of Generals, according to a memorandum.

But the AFP has yet to make the announcement.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayton Jr., former commander of the 601st Infantry Brigade, will now serve as commander of Camp Aguinaldo.

He took over from Maj. Gen. Jovenal Narcise (PMA '75), who was named Army chief of staff replacing Maj. Gen. Victor Ibrado (PMA '76), now the 3rd ID commander.

Bangit had barely warmed his seat as deputy commander of the Army's 2nd ID based in Tanay, Rizal, a crucial military outpost for Malacañang's defense, when he was given the Isafp post.

The President's longest-serving PSG chief, Bangit belongs to PMA '78, which has adopted Ms Arroyo as an honorary member.

Esperon, who belongs to PMA '74 which has adopted the President's husband as a member, had also served as PSG chief.

Calderon, younger brother of Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon, became Isafp chief only last March 9.

He was Ms Arroyo's senior military adviser when he was handpicked to head the Isafp at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

Maclang and Calderon belong to PMA '76.

Esperon's assumption of the AFP's top post on July 21 was followed by a revamp in three of the six unified area commands.

Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino (PMA '74) replaced Esperon as Army chief.

Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos (PMA '75), former 8th ID commander, took over Tolentino's post as head of the Northern Luzon Command.

Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano (PMA '76), former chief of the 2nd ID, replaced Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay who retired as Southern Luzon Command chief.

Yano was replaced by Maj. Gen. Fernando Mesa (PMA '75).

Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin was replaced as Central Command head by Maj. Gen. Cardoso Luna (PMA '75), former 4th ID commander.

Bagasin is due to retire on Sept. 17.

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

19 travel agencies closed by POEA

Tourists recruited for overseas jobs

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMployment Administration (POEA) yesterday said it has ordered the closure of 18 travel agencies in Metro Manila for violating the law.

According to POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, the travel agencies were recruiting Filipino workers for jobs overseas in violation of the Labor Code.

Article 26 prohibits all travel agencies and airline companies from engaging in the recruitment and placement of workers for overseas employment.

The travel agencies facing closure were Easy Travel Agency in Mandaluyong City, 1021 Travel and Tours, World Flight Travel and Tours, ASA Ventures and Enterprises, ASL Express Travel Inc., American Dream Travel and Tours and CSEJ Travel and Tours, all in Quezon City.

Also on the POEA's list were Topaz Travel and Tours, Rymek Enter Inc., Melon Travel and Tours, Embassy Travel and Tours, Gem Travel and Tours, Top Make Agency, Roman Travel and Tours, Corinthian Travel and Tours, Fernandez Travel and Tours, Mt. Sinai Travel and Tours and Denmark Travel and Tours, all in Ermita and Malate, Manila.

Another travel agency in Malabalacat, Pampanga—Grandeur Travel and Tours—was also ordered shut for the same violation.

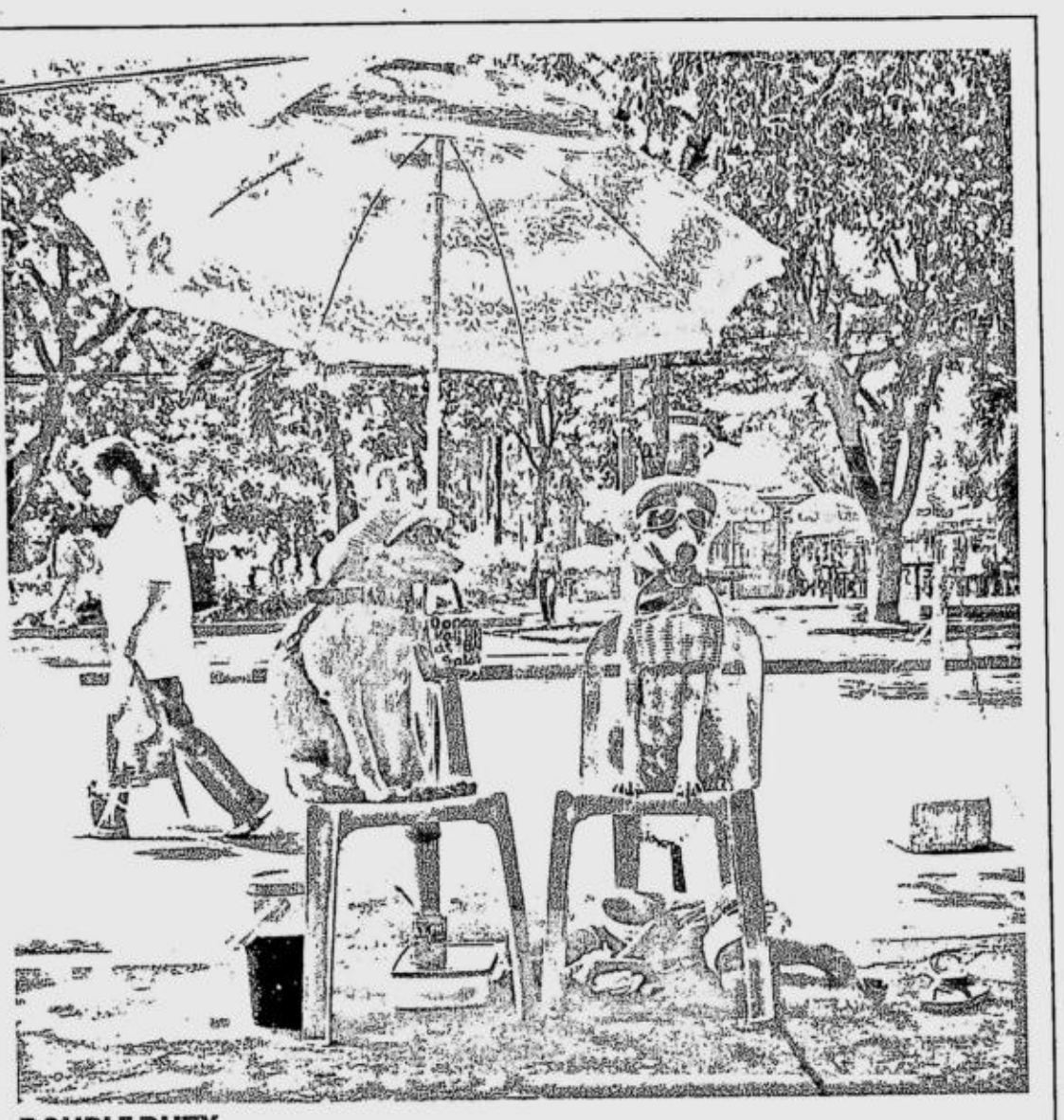
The POEA also blacklisted 50 people found to be involved in illegal recruitment or for violating recruitment regulations. Baldoz said charges would be filed against them in court.

Licensed recruitment agencies have been pushing for a crackdown on illegal recruiters, particularly travel agencies which have been sending people with tourist visas who want to work abroad.

The so-called "tourist workers" are often sent to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Japan and Iraq. Others leave for either Bangkok, Thailand or Singapore which they use as jump off points for their real destinations. Licensed recruiters have blamed unscrupulous airport and immigration employees for allowing these "tourist workers" to leave.

Baldoz, however, stressed that because of the constitutional right to travel, the government could not prevent anybody from leaving as long as they have a valid passport and visa.

She added that there is a need to forge agreements with other countries to stop the influx of illegally deployed and undocumented workers.



DOUBLE DUTY
With an umbrella and cool shades to protect them from the sun, two dogs ask for donations from passersby near the Manila City Hall. Apart from earning their keep, the dogs also babysit their master's son who sleeps under one of the chairs. ROMY HOMILLADA

WHAT'S INSIDE

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T-shirts with fake labels seized by NBI

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation (NBI) seized P4.5 million worth of T-shirts bearing fake trademark and designs of two popular cartoon brands during simultaneous raids conducted in Manila and Quezon City last week.

NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) agents seized the shirts with fake Warner Bros. and DC Comics labels from sales outlets owned by two couples—Glenn and Arlyn Co and Jhonson and Aileen Uy—last Aug. 3.

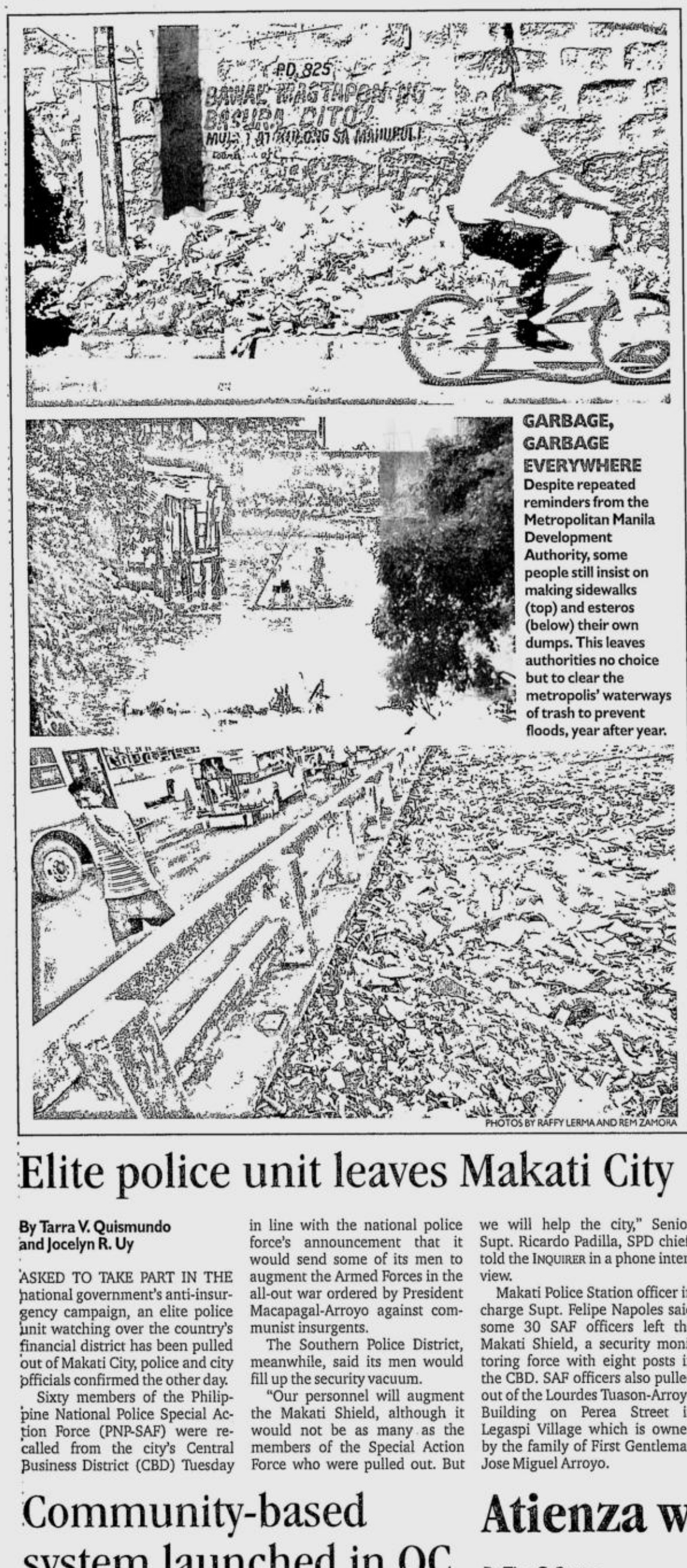
Special investigator Carlos Borromeo of the NBI IPRD said they raided Bluechiq Fashion House located at the 2nd floor of the Juan Luna Plaza on Juan Luna Street, Binondo in Manila and Goldwin Enterprises, located at 35 Don Ramon Street in Talayan Village, Quezon City.

Seized from the stores were 13,748 shirts.

The NBI had placed the establishments under surveillance and conducted test buys after Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. and DC Comics filed a complaint before the bureau regarding the proliferation of counterfeit products.

NBI agents obtained six search warrants from Manila Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Reynaldo Ros before raiding the establishments.

Charges of unfair competition and trademark infringement have been filed against the two couples for distributing and selling the fake products.



GARBAGE, GARBAGE EVERYWHERE Despite repeated reminders from the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, some people still insist on making sidewalks (top) and esteros (below) their own dumps. This leaves authorities no choice but to clear the metropolis' waterways of trash to prevent floods, year after year.

PHOTOS BY RAFFY LERMA AND REM ZAMORA

Task force created to boost PNP drive vs loose firearms

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Region Police Office (NCRPO) is taking a bolder step to solve the problem of loose firearms in the streets of Metro Manila.

Considered as loose firearms are those in the hands of rebel groups, criminals or even ordinary citizens who do not have the necessary permits to carry the weapons.

NCRPO chief, Director Vidal Querol, has formed Task Group "Armas" which will conduct "aggressive and sustained" operations against individuals or groups engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade and acquisition of firearms and ammunition.

It will be headed by Chief Supt. Napoleon Cachuela, NCRPO Deputy Regional Director for Operation.

Based on records of the Philippine National Police, there were around 106,000 loose firearms of various calibers last year. But the figure could be higher, the PNP said, adding that several ports in the country are being used to smuggle illegal guns abroad.

In his letter of instruction, Querol observed that the "conservative" figure hinted at the "seeming inability" of the government and the police to address the problem.

"The law enforcement function of police stations and concerned police units should be complementary. It is, therefore, necessary to organize a dedicated police force to spearhead the intensified and extensive police operations against anti-illegal firearms," Querol stated.

The operations, he added, were also aimed at curbing the international smuggling of firearms and ammunition.

To augment the task force, Querol has ordered all police districts to create teams that would seize and confiscate all illegal guns through intensive intelligence operations, apprehend suspects and monitor cases filed in court.

The monitoring of registered gun dealers, manufacturers and repair shops will also be carried out by these teams in coordination with other police units such as the Firearms and Explosives Division, Civil Security Group and the Security Agencies and Guards Division.

Taguig 'danger zone' undergoes facelift

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FROM DANGER ZONE TO SAFE haven.

The Taguig City government will inaugurate today a public housing project for residents in the Pallar area which was recently declared a danger zone after a part of its perimeter fence collapsed two weeks ago, burying houses in knee-deep mud.

According to the city's Public Information Office, the housing project, called "Taguig Family Townhouses," would help solve the city's problem on informal settlers.

Around 1,000 families live in the Pallar area located in Barangay Western Bicutan.

Twenty-three out of 1,000 families were affected when part of the 800-meter long fence collapsed on July 29 because of intermittent rains.

The other beneficiaries are families who face dislocation when the Philippine National Railways begins rehabilitating its south commuter line later this year.

In a statement, Mayor Freddie Tiñga announced that Megaworld Corp., developer of the neighboring property, had already promised to help carry out the housing program which would consist of affordable residential houses.

There was no mention, however, of the number of houses that would initially be built.

"There is an urgency in bridging the growing gap between the rich and the poor in our city where the country's most expensive residential development projects are found. One way of achieving this goal is to ensure that Pallar is safe for human settlement," Tiñga said.

Each house would cost P150,000. Beneficiaries can avail of housing loans through an easy financing program. Title holders would pay an initial down payment of P5,000 while the balance would be paid in monthly installments of P600 to P900 monthly for a maximum period of 30 years.

Elite police unit leaves Makati City

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Jocelyn R. Uy

ASKED TO TAKE PART IN THE national government's anti-insurgency campaign, an elite police unit watching over the country's financial district has been pulled out of Makati City, police and city officials confirmed the other day.

Sixty members of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) were recalled from the city's Central Business District (CBD) Tuesday in line with the national police force's announcement that it would send some of its men to augment the Armed Forces in the all-out war ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo against communist insurgents.

The Southern Police District, meanwhile, said its men would fill up the security vacuum.

"Our personnel will augment the Makati Shield, although it would not be as many as the members of the Special Action Force who were pulled out. But we will help the city," Senior Supt. Ricardo Padilla, SPD chief, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Makati Police Station officer in charge Supt. Felipe Napoles said some 30 SAF officers left the Makati Shield, a security monitoring force with eight posts in the CBD. SAF officers also pulled out of the Lourdes Tuason-Arroyo Building on Perea Street in Legaspi Village which is owned by the family of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

METROBRIEFS

Shot in the head

A 43-YEAR-OLD woman was in critical condition in a hospital after she was hit by a stray bullet in the head on Wednesday. Gloria San Andres, a snack vendor and resident of Sampaloc Street in Camarin, Caloocan City, was preparing to go to bed when two men identified only as Isidro and Jojo began arguing in front of her house. After a few minutes, several gunshots rang out. "One of the bullets hit the victim on the head as she was about to lie down," the police said. Chief Insp. Jose Valencia said San Andres is now confined at the East Avenue Medical Center. Police are still looking for the two men who fled after the incident.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Life term for shabu

FOR TRYING to sell almost a kilo of shabu or methampethamine hydrochloride, two men will spend the rest of their life behind bars and pay a fine of P800,000 each. A court yesterday found Mike Steve and Rashid Mangtoma guilty of drug pushing, more than three years after they were caught in a buy-bust operation in a Quezon City subdivision. In a seven-page decision, Judge Jaime Salazar Jr. of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 103 sentenced the two men to life imprisonment and ordered them to pay P800,000 each. Court records showed that Steve and Mangtoma were arrested by undercover narcotics agents on Feb. 20, 2003 along Lectura Street, Kimco Village in Barangay Sauyo, Novaliches.

DJ Yap

2 nabbed for drugs

THE PHILIPPINE National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force yesterday arrested two men inside the posh Metropolis Village II in Barangay Sta Lucia, Pasig City. PNP AIDSOTF chief, Director Marcelo Ele Jr., said his operatives confiscated more than 50 grams of shabu and about 800 grams of ephedrine, an ingredient in making shabu, from the suspects. He refused to give the names of the suspects as follow-up operations were ongoing as of press time to locate and arrest the source of illegal drugs. Ele told the INQUIRER they had other information about the peddling of illegal drugs in the city. "This is why we have been conducting several operations in the area," he added.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Testimonial dinner

UP PAN Xenia Fraternity will host a testimonial dinner in honor of Sen. Manuel B. Villar Jr., the new Senate president. The event will be held on Aug. 24, 7 p.m. at the German Club, Penthouse, Eurovilla II, 118 V. A. Rufino St. (formerly Herrera), Legaspi Village in Makati City. For inquiries and reservations, please call Kitch La Victoria at 0915-9426550 or Andy Quiocho at 0918-4445143.

DID YOU KNOW

THE AVERAGE number of children born to a woman—aged 15 to 49, married at least once and living in Metro Manila—is two, based on the latest figures. The latest census also showed that in the National Capital Region, Navotas has the most number of women with eight children or more, followed by Las Piñas City.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Community-based system launched in QC to help in flood alert

By DJ Yap

QUEZON CITY IS BATTING FOR a grassroots approach to disaster preparedness through the launching of its Barangay Flood Warning System.

The city government has started a community-based flood monitoring system in hopes of involving residents in its disaster preparedness plan during the rainy season.

The scheme will be pilot-tested in Barangay San Bartolome in Novaliches, one of the most flood-prone areas in the city.

It will involve hydrological monitoring and information exchange on flood warning, among other methods.

A rain and staff gauge and a floor-marker have already been put up at the Odelco riverside to monitor floods.

The project has a participatory approach and encourages volunteerism among people in the community, said Manuel Sabalza, chief of the Department of Public Order and Safety.

Collaboration

The warning system is the result of a collaboration between the DPOS and the flood forecasting branch of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

The International Flood Network through the Infrastructure Development Institute of Japan provided funding for the project.

Apart from Barangay San Bartolome, the city government has also identified 24 other flood-prone areas, which could be part of the project depending on its success.

Atienza wants to be adviser to next mayor

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA may be on his third but final term but he intends to remain active in city affairs in the future.

"I want to play the role of a senior adviser to the next mayor of Manila," Atienza, who turned 65 years old yesterday, said after a thanksgiving Mass held at the Bonifacio Shrine near City Hall.

"Ending my three terms does not necessarily mean disengagement from the city we all love, I will continue to be involved. I don't have any political plans for myself but I want to be of help to the city even beyond my term," Atienza told reporters.

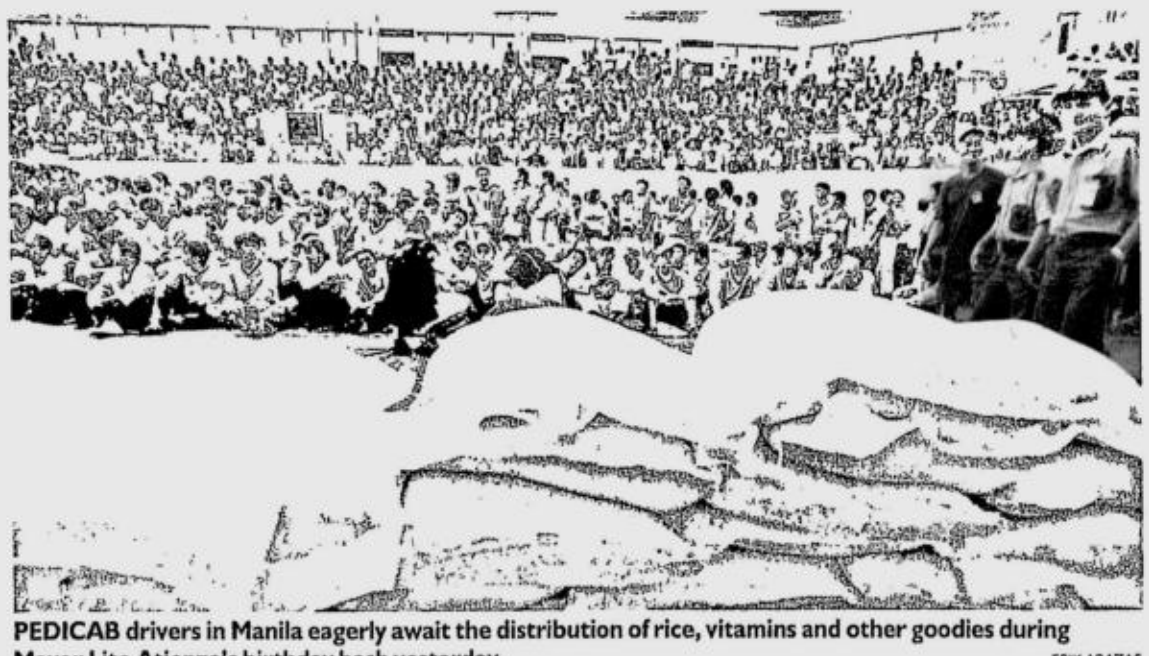
His son, Arnold "Ali," who, according to reports, was being groomed to succeed him, attended the event.

The mayor, however, has refused to confirm or deny this, including the report that boxing champ Manny Pacquiao could be his son's running mate.

Pacquiao recently went to the Commission on Elections to apply for the transfer of his registration records from General Santos City to Manila. If approved, this would allow him to vote in Manila.

Yesterday, Atienza only went as far as to say that he would recommend someone who he believes would continue his vision for a "progressive, vibrant and colorful" Manila.

"I don't have a birthday wish, but I would be very happy if the residents could continue working with me in transforming Manila into a truly world-class city," Atienza said.



PEDICAB drivers in Manila eagerly await the distribution of rice, vitamins and other goodies during Mayor Lito Atienza's birthday bash yesterday.

ERIK ARAZAS

Cuba: Castro health kept secret due to US threats

ARGENTINE-BORN revolutionary figure Ernesto "Che" Guevara (left) with Castro in Havana's famous "1830" restaurant in 1963 photo. AFP

HAVANA—CUBA ON WEDNESDAY JUSTIFIED the dearth of news on ailing President Fidel Castro's health, arguing that the country faces a clear and imminent threat from the United States.

Castro, who has presided over the island's communist government for almost 48 years, temporarily handed over his duties to his brother Raul, the defense chief, on July 31. Neither Castro has appeared in public since.

Due to "concrete threats" from Washington, "the information that we give about this whole situation has to be careful, limited to inform what is indispensable," National Assembly speaker Ricardo Alarcon said in an interview with Radio Rebelde.

Sources close to Fidel Castro's circle, however, said that the surgery was believed to have been performed early July 27, and that a few days later Castro was ingesting light food, and that now he reads documents.

Alarcon justified limited disclosure, referring to the 10-year-old US Helms-Burton law that establishes the US goal "to put an end to the revolutionary government," as well as the 2004 report by the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba detailing US programs aimed at encouraging democracy in Cuba.

US President George W. Bush ratified the plan on July 10 "and even said that to carry it out they were contemplating secret measures," Alarcon said.

"What more do you need to realize that we are really facing a very clear, very direct threat?" Alarcon asked.

Even though US forces may be bogged down in Iraq, Cuba "cannot take lightly the explicit threat of the government of a powerful country ... that is being governed by a group of bandits," he said.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and White House spokesperson Tony Snow have dismissed talk of any US invasion of Cuba, and Bush has encouraged Cubans to carry out political change.

Cuban exiles in southern Florida however have called for an anti-communist uprising on the island.

Cuban authorities have gone all out over the past few days to convince the island's citizens that Castro is well on his way to recovery and that the ruling Communist Party is in top shape.

They have said Castro would be back on the job within months, or possibly weeks, but have shed no light on the exact condition of the bearded leader, who turns 80 on Sunday.

Cuban authorities announced Wednesday they were intensifying police sweeps to catch satellite television signal pirates, with penalties that include heavy fines and up to three years imprisonment. *AFP*

More India states ban Coke, Pepsi

NEW DELHI—PRESSURE MOUNTED on Coca-Cola and PepsiCo on Thursday as two more Indian states banned the sale of their soft drinks at government-run schools and colleges amid allegations they contain high levels of pesticides.

The states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh joined five other states in banning the sale of Coke, Pepsi, Sprite and other soft drinks made by the Indian subsidiaries of Coca-Cola Co. and PepsiCo Inc., state officials said.

The moves follow claims last week by a New Delhi-based research body that the soft drinks have higher levels of pesticides than are allowed by national authorities.

Both Coca-Cola and PepsiCo insist their drinks are safe.

Karnataka Health Minister R. Ashok said the state issued an order banning the sale of 11 brands of soft drinks from the two companies in and around government schools and colleges. In Andhra Pradesh, Health Minister K. Roshaiah announced a similar decision, and said the ban would also cover government hospitals.

On Wednesday, the southern Indian state of Kerala imposed a total ban on production and sale of soft drinks from Coca Cola and PepsiCo. Earlier, sales bans were imposed by the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh.

The Center for Science and Environment in New Delhi said almost all soft drinks sold in India contain high levels of pesticides, but the focus was on Coca-Cola and PepsiCo because the two account for nearly 80 percent of India's $2 billion-plus soft drink market. *AP*

A million Chinese flee super typhoon

BEIJING—MORE THAN A MILLION Chinese have fled their homes in the path of a super typhoon, the strongest to threaten the country in half a century, as it churned relentlessly towards the southeast coast on Thursday.

Saomai, one of three storms to have hit East Asia in the past few days, has already dumped heavy rain on Taiwan and was just hours from an expected landfall between Hong Kong and Shanghai, just south of the booming city of Wenzhou.

Storm tracker Tropical Storm Risk (www.tropicalstormrisk.com) graded Saomai a category five "super" typhoon—its highest category.

Chinese state media said it was the most powerful storm system to threaten the country since August 1956, when a typhoon hit Zhejiang triggering a tsunami that killed more than 3,000.

"Some meteorologists said that the typhoon might grow stronger," the Xinhua news agency said, adding that it could be fuelled by remnants of the weakening and west-headed tropical storm Bopha.

"Saomai is packing winds of 216 kph (134 mph) and has outpaced forecasts," Xinhua quoted Li Yuzhu, head of the Zhejiang provincial observatory, as saying.

The center of Saomai was 140 km southeast of Wenzhou at 0500 GMT, moving northwest at 25 km per hour.

Wenzhou residents were reinforcing windows and doors against the storm and stockpiling drinking water and food, state television said.

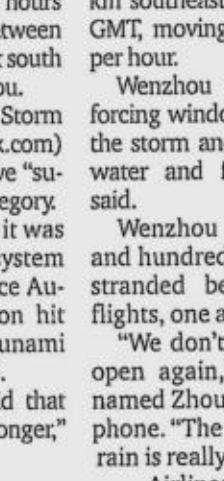
Wenzhou airport had closed and hundreds of passengers were stranded because of cancelled flights, one airport manager said.

"We don't know when we will open again," the manager, surnamed Zhou, told Reuters by telephone. "The wind is only fitful but rain is really heavy here."

Airlines in Taiwan also cancelled some domestic and international flights even though the island escaped the brunt of the storm. Hong Kong cancelled several flights.

Wenzhou in Zhejiang province, once a prosperous foreign treaty port and now a manufacturing center, has a central population of 1.3 million, but there are 7.4 million in the greater Wenzhou area.

Xinhua reported that Zhejiang had already evacuated 305,000 people and the neighboring province of Fujian 266,000, as heavy rain, strong winds and a high tide hit the area. *Reuters*



THE TOP floors of the Taipei 101, the highest building in the world, shrouded in clouds brought by typhoon Saomai, Aug. 10. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Suicide bomber kills 24 near Iraq Shiite shrine

NAJAF, IRAQ—At least 24 people were killed Thursday when a suicide bomber wearing an explosive harness blew himself up in a market in the Iraqi city of Najaf near Shiite Islam's holiest shrine, the Imam Ali mausoleum, police and medics said. At least 42 others were wounded in the attack at the entrance to a market in the old city, which is around 150 meters from the mausoleum and close to the offices of Iraq's most revered Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, police said. *AFP*

US forces repel raid, kill 19 Afghan militants

NARAY, AFGHANISTAN—US soldiers and warplanes drove off an insurgent attack on a new American base early Wednesday, killing 19 militants in an area where rebels are trying to resist a push by coalition troops into remote mountains of eastern Afghanistan. In the volatile south of the country, wracked by the bloodiest fighting in nearly five years, suspected Taliban rebels hanged a 70-year-old woman and her son from a tree, accusing them of spying for President Hamid Karzai's government, officials said. Meanwhile, Karzai, whose popularity has declined because of slow progress in reconstructing the war-battered country and poor security, signaled in an interview that he won't run for president again in elections slated for 2009. *AP*

Aussie solons defy PM over immigration laws

CANBERRA—Four ruling coalition lawmakers defied Australian leader John Howard on Thursday by rejecting tough new immigration laws, the most serious challenge to the prime minister's authority in his 10 years in power. The laws mean all asylum seekers who arrive by boat would be sent to the remote Pacific island nation of Nauru while their claims are assessed. But some lawmakers strongly opposed the legislation because children would also be detained in Nauru, despite a promise by Howard a year ago that children would no longer be kept in immigration detention. The new laws were designed to ease Indonesian concerns after Australia granted asylum to 43 Papuans. *Reuters*

50 civilians killed in Sri Langka fighting

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA—Scores of civilians were killed or injured in heavy fighting that broke out in Sri Lanka's northeast on Thursday when government forces launched artillery and air attacks on Tamil Tiger rebels, the insurgents said. The Defense Ministry in Colombo said that its military operation had inflicted "huge" losses on the rebels, but a military spokesperson said the troops were not targeting civilians and that he was not aware of any civilian casualties. Three government soldiers were killed and 35 wounded, a hospital doctor said. The fighting centered around a key reservoir and canal in Trincomalee district, which in recent weeks has seen some of the worst fighting since the country's 2002 cease-fire, with estimates of the number of combatants and civilians killed ranging from about 100 to 300. *AP*

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St. Joseph Homes Subdivision
Toril, Davao Del — 41 Residential Lots ~ LA 60-110 sqm — ONLY AT P1,100/sqm

METRO MANILA
CALOOCAN
Prop. 1 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 650 sqm FA 564 sqm Lot 5 Blk 48-D # 86 & 88-A , A. del Mundo St , Grace Park. Minimun Bid Price: P 8,109,000.00
MANILA
Res'l. Condo, Gotesco Regency Twin Towers, 1127 Concepcion St., Ermita
Prop. 2 - Unit 2104, 21/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot) Minimum Bid Price: P 5,362,000.00
Prop. 3 - Unit 2203, 22/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot) Minimum Bid Price: P 5,355,000.00
Prop. 4 - Unit 2204, 22/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot) Minimum Bid Price: P 5,372,000.00
Prop. 5 - Unit 2303, 23/F FA 210 sqm (w/ 1 parking slot) Minimum Bid Price: P 5,355,000.00
MAKATI CITY
Prop. 6 - Comm'l Condo FA 401 sqm Unit 1-A (G/F) Biltmore Condo., 102 Aguirre St, Legaspi Vill. (w/ 4parking slots) Minimum Bid Price: P 35,360,000.00
Comm'l. Condo, 88 Corp. Valero cor. Sedeno Sts., Salcedo Village
Prop. 7 - Unit 2801 FA 201.90 sqm (w/ 2 parking slots) Minimum Bid Price: P 9,083,000.00
Prop. 8 - Unit 2804 FA 201.90 sqm (w/ 2 parking slots) Minimum Bid Price: P 9,083,000.00
Comm'l. Condo 3rd Flr Valero Plaza (Cityland Condo IV) No. 124 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Prop. 9 – Unit 339 FA 30.88 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 10 – Unit 340 FA 30.88 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 11 – Unit 341 FA 30.88 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,235,000.00
Prop. 12 – Unit 342 FA 31.02 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 13 Unit 343 FA 29.76 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 14 – Unit 344 FA 29.76 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,190,000.00
Prop. 15 – Unit 345 FA 31.02 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 1,241,000.00
Prop. 16 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 633 sqm FA 442 sqm # 1765 & 1767 Garcia St., (Reposo St.) San Miguel Village. Minimum Bid Price: P 18,160,000.00
Prop. 17 - Comm'l. Lot LA 12,322 sqm # 2248 Chino Roces Ave., (Pasong Tamo Ext. , Kayamanan B. Minimum Bid Price: P 512,110,000.00
Prop. 18 – Res'l. Condo FA 211 sqm Lot1 Blk 2 Unit 201 Makati Prime City, St. Paul St., San Antonio. Minimum Bid Price: P 4,320,000.00
Prop. 19 – Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 484 sqm FA 825 sqm #2122 Chino Roces Ave, (formerly Pasong Tamo) Brgy Pio del Pilar, Kayamanan A. Minimum Bid Price: P 26,435,000.00
PARAÑAQUE CITY
Prop. 20 – Residential Lot LA 572 sqm L2 Abalone St. Jaleville Subd, San Dionisio. Minimum Bid Price: P 2,690,000.00
Prop. 21 – Res'l. Condo w/ parking slot FA 158 sqm 9th Flr. Chateau de Baie Condo, Roxas Boulevard cor. Airport Road. Baclaran. Minimun Bid Price: P 3,220,000.00
PASIG CITY
Prop. 22 - Comm'l. Lot LA 922 sqm Lot 16 Blk 5 San Miguel Ave. & Amethyst St., Ortigas Center, Brgy. San Antonio Minimum Bid Price: P 122,626,000.00
QUEZON CITY
Prop. 23 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 114.30 sqm FA 118 sm # 5-A Alvarez St., Project 4 Minimum Bid Price: P 2,788,000.00
Prop. 24 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 3,375 sqm # 18 Samar St., South Triangle Minimum Bid Price: P 54,000,000.00
Prop. 25 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 684 sqm FA 800 sqm # 25 Kingsville St., White Plains Subd. Minimum Bid Price: P 18,072,000.00
Prop. 26 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 160 sqm FA 196 sqm Lot 9 & 11 Blk 4 Jade St., Silverland Subd., Tandang Sora Minimum Bid Price: P 1,616,000.00
Prop. 27 - Residential Lot LA 168 sqm Lot 4-A-1 # 8 J P Rizal St , Manlag Minimum Bid Price: P 2,016,000.00

METRO MANILA
QUEZON CITY
Prop. 28 - Residential Lot LA 532 sqm Lot 4-A-2 # 8 J P Rizal St., Manlag Minimum Bid Price: P 6,384,000.00
WITHDRAWN
Prop. 30 - Residential Lot LA 154 sqm Lot B Malulum St., Brgy Maharlika Sta Mesa Heights Minimum Bid Price: P 2,340,000.00
Prop. 31 - Comm'l / Indus'l. Lot LA 2,401 sqm # 114 Gen. Luis St., Brgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches Minimum Bid Price: P 16,928,000.00
RIZAL
Prop. 32 – Residential Lot LA 834 sqm Lot 5 Blk 2 Salford St., Town & Country Estates, Brgy Dela Paz, Antipolo City Minimum Bid Price: P 2,282,400.00
SAN JUAN
Prop. 33 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 255 sqm FA 365 sqm # 26 A. Bonifacio St., Brgy. Kabayanan Minimum Bid Price: P 4,393,000.00
Prop. 34 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 60 sqm FA 86 sqm # 22 B-1 U8 Metrohomes Executive Townhomes, F. Benitez St. Minimun Bid Price: P 1,306,000.00
Prop. 35 – Comm'l. Lot LA 352 sqm Lot 3-A-1 A Mendoza St. (formerly Paraiso St.) Minimun Bid Price: P 5,315,000.00

LUZON
BATAAN
WITHDRAWN
CAMARINES SUR
Prop. 37 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 600 sqm FA 660 sqm L14 & 15 Blk 3 Soriano St., Villa Sorella Subd., Concepcion Grande, Naga City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,103,000.00
CAVITE
Prop. 38 - Comm'l. Lot LA 2,105 sqm L1-B Molino Rd cor. Macaria Ave.,Bacoor Minimum Bid Price: P 18,793,000.00
LAGUNA
Prop. 39 – Residential Lot LA 210 sqm Lot 7 Blk 5 Molave cor. Yakal Sts., Cardil Village, San Pablo City Minimum Bid Price: P 430,670.00
Prop. 40 – Res'l. Lot LA 223 sqm Lot 9 Blk 5 Molave cor. Yakal Sts., Cardil Village, San Pablo City Minimum Bid Price: P 457,330.00
Prop. 41 – Comm'l. Lot LA 1,039 sqm Lot 8061-D Maharlika Highway, Brgy San Francisco, San Pablo City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00
Prop. 42 – Comm'l. Lot LA 1,039 sqm Lot 8061-E Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,195,000.00
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO
Prop. 43 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 440 sqm Lot 2 Blk 4 Brgy. Mangarin, San Jose Minimum Bid Price: P 130,000.00
QUEZON PROVINCE
Prop. 44 – Residential Lot LA 8,477 sqm Lot 1182-C Along Diversion Road, Brgy Isabang, Tayabas Minimum Bid Price: P 5,148,853.00
Prop. 45 – Residential Lot LA 8,652 sqm Lot 1183 Along Diversion Road, Brgy Isabang, Tayabas Minimum Bid Price: P 5,255,147.00
Prop. 46 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 75 sqm FA 47 sqm Lot 3-H-1 Rosemarie Compound, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 180,000.00
Prop. 47 – Residential Lot LA 250 sqm L1 Blk2 Brgy Gulang-gulang,Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 484,524.85
Prop. 48 – Residential Lot LA 180 sqm L17 Blk3 Brgy Gulang-gulang,LucenaCity Minimum Bid Price: P 387,619.88
Prop. 49 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 480 sqm FA 592 sqm Lot 2 & 3 Blk 11 Purok Matahimik, Brgy. Cotta, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,881,000.00
Prop. 50 – Comm'l. Lot LA 5,074 sqm Lots 2305-B & 2306-A-1-F, Quezon Ave., Brgy. 6, Lucena City Minimum Bid Price: P 14,685,000.00

LUZON
TARLAC
Prop. 51 – Ind'l. Lot LA 14,432 sqm Lot 1-B Romulo Highway, Brgy. San Juan de Mata & Dolores Minimum Bid Price: P 3,348,000.00
Prop. 52 – Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 712 sqm FA 637 sqm # 114 Rose St., Villa Soliman Subd., Brgy. Salapungan Minimum Bid Price: P 2,543,400.00

VISAYAS
AKLAN
Prop. 53 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,518 sqm FA 460 sqm Lot 2 Cepriano St., Brgy. Estancia, Municipality of Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 3,060,000.00
Prop. 54 - Residential Lot LA 470 sqm Lot 3435-E Along Road-right -of-way, Brgy. Tigayon, Kalibo Minimum Bid Price: P 198,000.00
Prop. 55 - Agro-Res'l Lot LA 4,668 sqm Lot 3776 Interior of Brgy. Caticlan, Malay Minimum Bid Price: P 1,156,000.00
WITHDRAWN
Prop. 57 - Residential Lot LA 271 sqm Lot10 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill, Brgy. New Buswang Minimum Bid Price: P 271 ,000.00
Prop. 58 - Residential Lot LA 277sqm L11 Blk 5 Mercedes Vill. Brgy New Buswang Minimum Bid Price: P 277,000.00
CAPIZ
Prop. 59 – Res'l./Agri. Lot LA 6,437 sqm Lot 190-A-2 Along National Highway, Brgy Ondoy, Ivisan, Minimum Bid Price: P 1,719,000.00
Prop. 60 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,500 sqm Lot 1865-A –1 Along Nat'l Rd (Roxas Ave) Km 1, Brgy. Lawaan, Roxas City Minimum Bid Price: P 5,034,000.00
Residential Lot, Bo. Andres Bonifacio, Roxas City
Prop. 61 - Lot 956-B-2-D LA 195 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 56,959.00
Prop. 62 - Lot 956-B-2-E LA 204 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 59,588.00
Prop. 63 - Lot 956-B-2-F LA 273 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 79,742 .00
Prop. 64 - Lot 956-B-2-G LA 273 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 79,742.00
Prop. 65 - Lot 956-B-2-H LA 219 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 63,969.00
ILOILO
Prop. 66 - Residential Lot LA 5,536 sqm Lot 934-B –3 Molo Arevalo Blvd., Brgy. Sto. Niño Sur, Arevalo. Minimum Bid Price: P 4,575,000.00
Prop. 67 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 1,787 sqm Lot 2609 Gonzaga St., Purok 14, Poblacion, Pavia Minimum Bid Price: P 1,674,000.00
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
Prop. 68 - Res'l. Lot w/ Improvement LA 997 sqm FA 250 sqm Lot 1 Blk 10 corner Kametal Drive & unnamed Subd., Road, Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City Minimum Bid Price: P 1,917,000.00
Prop. 69 - Comm'l Lot LA 600 sqm Lot 4-A along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy. Singcang- Airport, Bacolod City Minimum Bid Price: P 4,500,000.00
Prop. 70 - Comm'l Lot LA 730 sqm Lot 4-B along Magsaysay Ave., Brgy. Singcang- Airport, Minimum Bid Price: P 5,475,000.00

MINDANAO
DAVAO CITY
Prop. 71 - Res'l. Lot LA 600 sqm Lot 2 Blk 1 Central Park Blvd., Santos Marketing Subd , Bangkal Minimum Bid Price: P 1,200,000.00
Commercial Lot 8th Ave & Soliman & Leon Garcia Sts., Brgy. Agdao
Prop. 72 - Lot 2-B LA 916 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 73 - Lot 2-C LA 916 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 7,328,000.00
Prop. 74 - Lot 2-D-1 LA 450 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 3,600,000.00
Prop. 75 - Lot 2-D-2 LA 5,899 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 47,192,000.00
Prop. 76 - Lot 2-D-2 LA 2,738 sqm Minimum Bid Price: P 21,904,000.00

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel delays Lebanon ground offensive

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL HAS PUT PLANS FOR A new ground offensive in Lebanon on hold until the weekend to give a chance to ceasefire efforts, senior government officials said Thursday, a day after Israel's Security Cabinet approved a major expansion of the month-long war.

However, prospects for a quick ceasefire resolution by the UN Security Council are uncertain, with the United States and France still divided over a timetable for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. France wants Israel to pull out once hostilities end, while the US backs Israel's insistence on staying in southern Lebanon until a strong international force is deployed, which could take weeks or months.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert is ready to wait with the offensive until the weekend, said a senior government official. The offensive could begin earlier if Hezbollah launches a major attack on Israel, the official said.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah threatened new rocket barrages, urging Arab residents of Israel's port city of Haifa in a televised speech Wednesday evening to leave their homes for safer areas.

On Wednesday, Israel's Security Cabinet approved the deeper push into Lebanon, with nine ministers in favor and three abstaining. During the tense six-hour meeting, ministers received updates on rising Israeli military casualties in Lebanon.

In all, 15 Israeli reserve soldiers were killed Wednesday, the highest daily number so far in the month-long war. Nine of the soldiers died when an anti-tank missile hit a house in a south Lebanon village.

The decision to expand the war was accompanied by growing criticism of the military and concern about rising casualties. The Israeli death toll stood at 118, including 36 civilians and 82 soldiers. On the Lebanese side, 711 people have been killed.

Critics said the army has failed to make a dent in Hezbollah's ability to fire rockets at Israel—the guerrillas fired 170 on Wednesday, for a war total of more than 3,500—and that pushing deeper into Lebanon would not stop such attacks since longer-range rockets can still reach Israel.

The Israeli daily Haaretz reported an angry exchange between Defense Minister Amir Peretz and his predecessor, Shaul Mofaz, in the Security Cabinet meeting. When Mofaz criticized the planned new offensive, Peretz reportedly shot back: "Where were you when Hezbollah built up this array (of weapons)?"

Under the army plan, Israeli forces would move to the Litani River, some 30 kilometers from the Israel-Lebanon border. At the moment, more than 10,000 troops are engaged in house-to-house battles against Hezbollah fighters in a strip less than half that size.

Even in the current war zone, Israeli troops have had trouble taking control of towns and villages. Security officials say the guerrillas' bunkers, well equipped with food, weapons and electricity, are a reason for Hezbollah's stamina. At times of lull, the Hezbollah gunmen emerge from the bunkers and set up new ambushes for troops. *AP*

Crisis pushes US credibility in Mideast to all-time low

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States'. credibility as a diplomatic broker in the Middle East has been pushed to an all-time low by the Bush administration's handling of the conflict in Lebanon, experts say.

But despite its dwindling influence, Washington continues to be seen as the dominant player in any effort to ease the violence that has long plagued the region.

The fighting between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militia escalated into its fifth week Thursday with diplomats still at loggerheads over details of a UN ceasefire deal and the United States increasingly isolated from its European and Arab allies.

For many analysts, the administration of US President George W. Bush—already badly damaged by its handling of the crisis in Iraq—has painted itself into a diplomatic corner by siding too closely with Israel in its month-old offensive against Hezbollah.

More than 900 Lebanese civilians have been reported killed in Israeli air and artillery strikes as diplomats have wrangled over the terms of a possible ceasefire, compared to several dozen Israelis who have died in Hezbollah missile attacks.

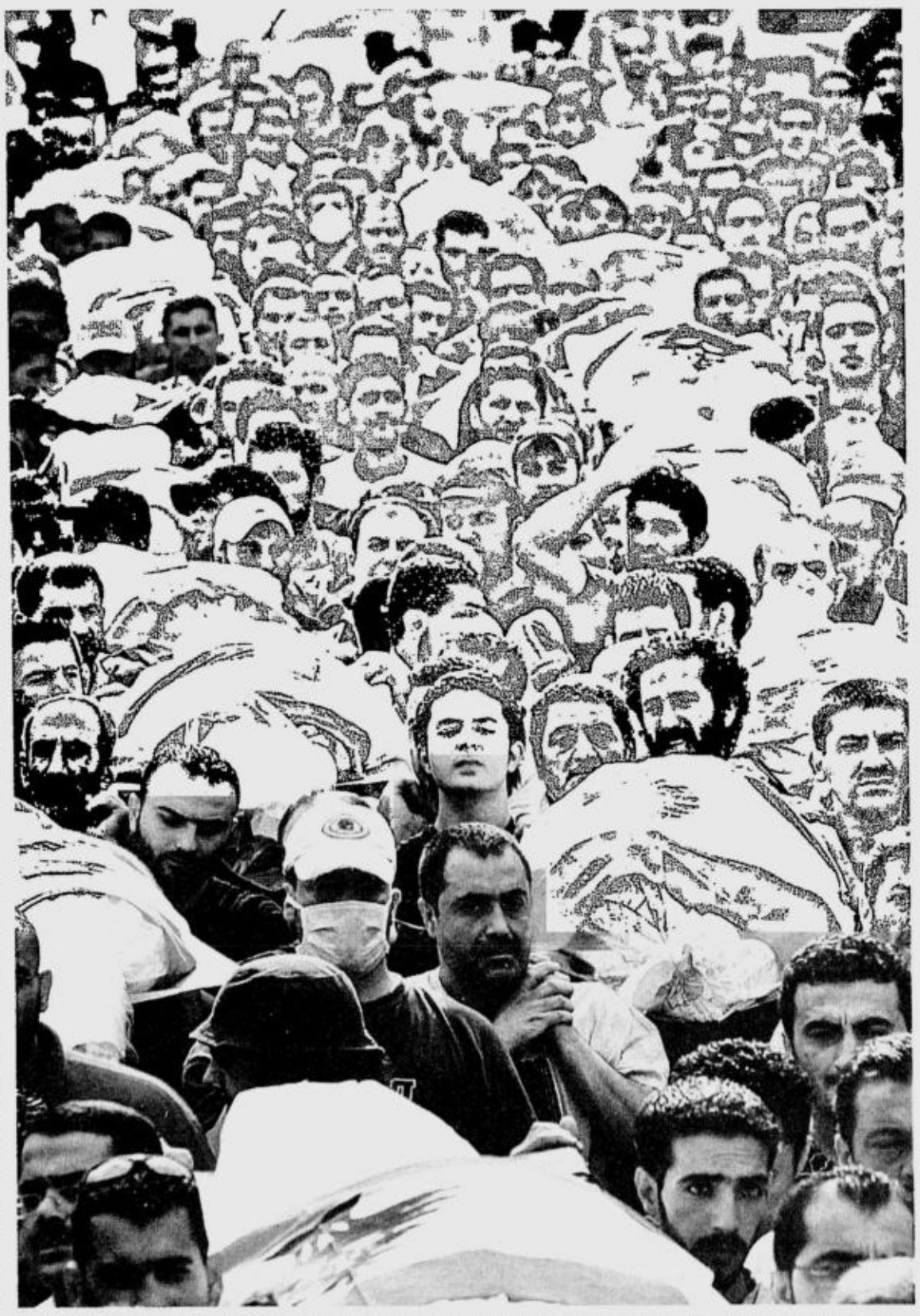
"There will be a very strong perception that the United States tilted so heavily towards Israel that they showed a lack of concern for Muslim casualties," said Daniel Benjamin, a Middle East analyst for the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington.

"There's no question that we're not making any friends in the region right now, except for Israel," he said.

Benjamin and other analysts said the Bush administration's influence in the Middle East was already under severe strain because of its failure to bring stability, or even stem sectarian bloodshed, in Iraq more than three years after the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

But its refusal to back international appeals for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and a quick Israeli withdrawal have drawn the ire not only of the Arab public but also of key Middle East allies.

"The problem for the United States is that public opinion, certainly in the Muslim world, the Arab world, is very anti-American, so governments are reluctant to be seen as cooperating with it," said Saadi Touval, a specialist on Arab-Israeli relations at Johns Hopkins University. *AFP*



MOURNERS carry Aug.9 some of the flag-draped bodies of Lebanese citizens, killed when an Israeli air strike hit an apartment building late Monday in the Beirut suburb of Chiah. AP

Nasrallah, new hero of the Islamic world

JERUSALEM—THE ISLAMIC world has a new hero. In Muslim countries from Morocco to Indonesia, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is being feted as the man who took on mighty Israel—and is winning.

Even in London, some marchers demanding a ceasefire in the Lebanon conflict on Saturday carried placards emblazoned with portraits of the charismatic chief of the Shiite militia that captured two Israeli soldiers on July 12 in a bid to force an exchange of prisoners with the Jewish state.

Nasrallah may not have predicted the ferocity of the response to his group's actions, but in the month since Prime Minister Ehud Olmert unleashed his air force against Lebanon Hezbollah has continued to rain rocket fire across the border into Israel.

Some of the young London marchers chanted slogans urging Nasrallah to target Tel Aviv with his missiles, a wish echoed at demonstrations across the Muslim world.

In Morocco, they shouted "Well-loved Nasrallah, destroy Tel Aviv!" in Casablanca on Sunday, as well as "We are all Hezbollah, we are all Nasrallah!" and "Allah, give victory to Hezbollah!" In Spain, where the country's half million Muslims are regarded as moderate and well-integrated into the population of 44 million, support for Nasrallah is strong within their community.

Nasrallah "fights to liberate his country" according to Riay Tatary of the Union of Muslim Communities in Spain, expressing his "support for the resistance." Protestors in the capital of Austria, which is home to about 400,000 Muslims, chanted "Nasrallah, please, bombard Tel Aviv!" at a 130-strong rally Saturday.

Even in key US ally Jordan, which has a peace treaty with neighboring Israel, protesters brandish huge portraits of the Hezbollah chief and chant for a Hezbollah victory.

IRANIAN women gazing at a poster of Nasrallah in Tehran Aug. 9. The poster reads, "Nasrallah: Our weapon is the weapon of martyrdom and no one can take it away from us." REUTERS

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Shiites thronged Baghdad on Friday chanting "Death to Israel!" and "Resistance!" in a massive demonstration of support for Hezbollah.

It was the largest foreign show of support for the Lebanese guerrillas since Israel launched its offensive.

In Pakistan, Nasrallah may not yet be as popular a figure as al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, but large portraits of the bearded and bespectacled leader, wearing the black turban reserved for Shiite clerics, feature at increasingly frequent anti-Israel demonstrations, especially by the minority Shiite community. *AFP*

Police charge 2 men in British royal snooping probe

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE charged two men on Wednesday as part of a probe into suspected eavesdropping on the telephone voicemail messages of the royal family.

In a statement, police said one of the men was 48-year-old Clive Goodman, the royal correspondent for the country's biggest selling newspaper The News of the World.

They charged him and a 35-year-old named as Glen Mulcaire with illegally accessing voicemail messages on eight occasions between January 3 and May 30 this year, and with conspiracy to intercept communications.

"They have been released on police bail to appear (before magistrates) on Wednesday, Aug. 16," the statement said.

Police launched their investigation after members of staff working for heir to the British throne Prince Charles said they thought someone was listening to their phones.

One police source told Reuters on Wednesday that officers were now working with phone companies to check whether other rich and powerful people had been snooped on.

"We don't know the full scale of it yet," the source said, asking not to be named. "We're looking at numbers: what other public figures might have been subject to the interception." Goodman and Mulcaire were charged under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, which makes it a crime to intercept communication on public telecoms systems—including e-mail and voicemail—without proper authority.

Police say the men tapped into mobile phone voicemail messages.

The case has intrigued a public used to the tactics of hungry tabloids desperate for scoops. It recalls the "Squidgygate" and "Camillagate" scandals of the early 1990s, when newspapers obtained phone conversations of Prince Charles and of his late wife Diana.

Back then, Diana was taped talking to her lover James Gilbey, who called her "Squidgy." Charles was recorded memorably telling his then mistress—now wife—Camilla Parker Bowles that he wanted to be reincarnated as her tampon.

Tabloids have since sent undercover reporters to get jobs as palace servants. A Daily Mirror reporter hired as a palace footman in 2003 revealed, among other things, that Queen Elizabeth ate breakfast cereal served in a plastic bowl. *Reuters*

Primary a referendum on Iraq

THE VICTORY OF NED LAMONT over Joseph I. Lieberman, a three-term senator and former vice presidential candidate, was a vivid demonstration of how the Iraq war is buffeting American politics and of the deep hostility toward President Bush among Democrats. It also suggested there are stiff anti-status-quo winds blowing across the political landscape as the fall elections approach.

Lamont's victory marked the first time that liberal political blogs, after playing an increasingly noisy role in Democratic politics, have been associated with a major winning campaign, suggesting a moment of arrival for this new force.

The outcome of this most closely watched primary of the year will undoubtedly prod other Democrats who supported the war—albeit with less gusto than Lieberman—to step further away from the increasingly unpopular conflict.

But more than that, the results raised red flags for both parties, going into the highly competitive fall elections.

For Democrats, the outcome dramatized the fault lines in the party over the war. And with Lieberman pledging to run as an independent in the general election, with a fierce attack on Lamont and "partisan" Washington Democrats, national Democrats have been put in an excruciating position.

They will be forced in the days ahead to decide whether to renounce a Democratic fixture popular among moderate and Jewish voters across the country and embrace a Democrat who has come to represent the winds of change.

Potential Democratic presidential candidates for 2008 will need to determine whether they want to come into Connecticut to campaign against Lieberman.

At the same time, Republicans are ready to pounce on what they hope could be a political opening. They said this could become an opportunity to frame the primary results in a way that has historically worked for them and that they have exploited ruthlessly: to present Republicans as better able to protect the nation in a dangerous world. *New York Times*

WILD WEST TIBET

Tibetan racers during the annual Litang Horse Racing Festival in the wild west Tibetan county of Litang in China's southwestern province of Sichuan, Aug. 1. AFP

SPORTS

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Viloria stakes world title today

OFFENSE COULD BE BRIAN VILORIA'S BEST defense when he takes on Mexican challenger Omar Nino Romero in their World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight title fight Thursday night (Friday morning in Manila) at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Viloria's trainer Freddie Roach wants the unbeaten Fil-American champion to attack early and often.

"I don't want Brian pulling back from this guy," Roach said.

"I like Brian best when he's aggressive and lets the big shots go, not when he's laying back and countering. If he backs up and lets this guy come forward, it will be to the other guy's advantage."

Romero's record looks impressive with 23 wins, including 10 by knockout, two defeats and one draw.

His biggest catch is fellow Mexican and current WBC flyweight ruler Jorge Arce. They're both undefeated in four fights when Romero stopped Arce in just one round.

Another Filipino, one-time world title challenger Diosdado Gabi will take on Colombia's Mauricio Pastrana, the former International Boxing Federation (IBF) and World Boxing Association (WBA) champ, in the undercard.

The bouts will be aired today simulcast over Solar Sports and RPN-9 starting at 10 a.m. with replays at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturday.

At yesterday's official weigh-in, both Viloria and Romero came in at 108 lbs while Gabi tipped the scales at 115.5 to Pastrana's 120 lbs.

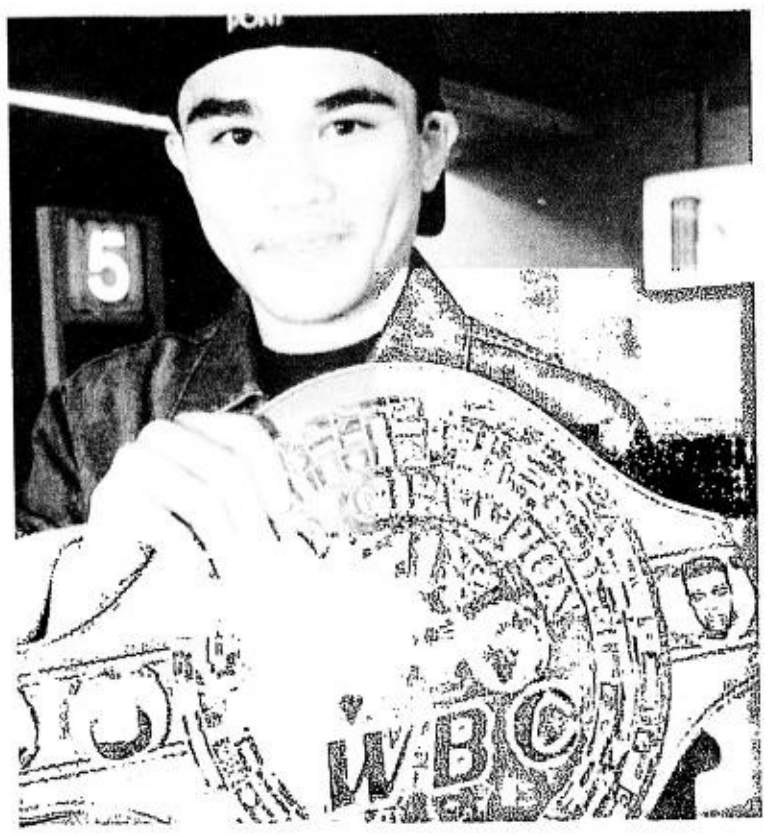
If victorious, the unbeaten 25-year-old Viloria has sounded off his interest in fighting WBA junior flyweight champ Koki Kameda of Japan to unify the title, although the Fil-American fighter insists he is not looking past Romero.

Roach, who is popularly known as the trainer of Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao, said he had seen some of Romero's fights on tape and described the native of Guadalajara, Mexico, as a tough, come-forward fighter, slow but dangerous with a looping right hand.

But he's quick to point out that both Romero defeats came inside the distance.

"He's no bullet-proof," Roach said. "Brian's hand speed and power will be very critical in this fight."

Viloria, son of Filipino parents who are based in Haiwaii, knows exactly what to do. His 19-0 card includes 12 knockout wins.



BRIAN Viloria shows his WBC belt. The Fil-Hawaiian fighter goes up against the dangerous Omar Nino Romero this morning in Las Vegas.

ROGER MARGALLO

But his manager Gary Gittelsohn doesn't sound too confident.

"There is no easy fight in this division," Gittelsohn said.

It will be Viloria's second defense of the title he won from Erik Ortiz last year. He decisioned Jose Antonio Aguirre last February.

The Viloria-Romero bout will also be shown on wide screen at the Robinsons Galleria Fountain Area and at Tastebuds in Robinsons Place Manila at 10 a.m. With a report from Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

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Baby Tams collar Bullpups

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE FAR EASTERN Baby Tamaraws coasted to a 120-71 victory over the National Bullpups to keep second spot in the UAAP junior basketball tourney yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The Baby Tamaraws relied on Jens Knuttel, Mark Lopez and Socrates Rivera to pull off the blowout win against the winless Bullpups.

FEU improved to 6-1, just behind the idle Ateneo Blue Eaglets, who ruled the first round with a six-game sweep.

Knuttell topscored with 18 points. The Baby Tamaraws also outrebounded the Bullpups, 64-31.

Ken Acibar scattered 23 points as the third-running Adamson Baby Falcons downed the University of the East Pages in the second game, 88-82.

Arvin Vitug and Kim Ceguerra took over from Acibar in the final two minutes to lift the Falcons to their fifth win in seven games.

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'Massacre' reduces goalkeeper to mere spectator

GAMES TODAY (*Silliman University football field*)
Semifinals
1 p.m.—Negros Oriental vs. Cebu
3 p.m.—NCR vs. Davao

By Cedelf P. Tupas
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—CEBU WAS SO BUSY scoring goals Wednesday that its goalkeeper was reduced to a mere spectator.

With Marlou Solon spearheading the onslaught, Cebu massacred Sultan Kudarat, 32-0, to barge into the semifinals of the PFF National Women's Open Football Championship at the Foundation University pitch in Dumaguete City.

Needing to win by 22 goals or more to advance, the Cebuanas, who drew 11 goals from Solon, achieved their target in the 55th minute and went on to score 10 more to surpass Iligan's 21-0 victory over the same Sultan Kidarat team. Solon hiked her total to 12 goals in just three games to become the tournament's leading scorer.

"I never got to touch the ball," said Cebu keeper Carmel Openiano, who watched in delight from her goal as Cebu established its biggest victory in the national tournament after its 26-0 triumph over Quezon City in 2004.

With the threat of facing either defending champion Davao or powerhouse National Capital Region in the semifinals looming, Negros Oriental overcame a sluggish start to blank Iligan, 2-0, to emerge as the top team after the group stage, ahead of the two title favorites.

Negros Oriental's win paved the way for NCR and Davao to meet in the semifinals at 3 p.m. today. Cebu, on the other hand, tries to seal its second finals appearance in two years when it battles the host team, which defeated the Cebuanas, 2-1, via a late goal Tuesday.

Katrina Bejec and Jan Salac struck six and five goals, respectively for Cebu, while young Presley Cunningham and veteran Carmel Colina also had three goals each.

But focus will be on the duel between Davao and powerhouse NCR in a showdown pitting two teams that were earlier picked to reach the finals.

NCR coach Hans Smit said his team will go into the 3 p.m. clash as the underdog, citing Davao's advantage in experience.

"The Davao players have been playing together for a long time while my team only played together for the first time Monday," said Smit.

Davao's American coach Shane Dasher expressed confidence of a victory against NCR.

"My team has a lot of talent," said Dasher, whose squad advanced following wins against Zamboanga and Oriental Mindoro. "But we'll never know, especially with the muddy condition of the pitch."

PFF competitions chair Pablito Araneta said tournament officials repaired the SU pitch yesterday so it would be in good condition for the semifinals, barring any rain.

Davao is actually gunning for its third straight crown this year and its sixth overall. But Dasher said his players are hardly bothered by the expectations.

Fleet-footed forward Edna Agravante, who is the tournament's second-leading scorer with 10 goals, will be at the forefront of the NCR attack, following the non-arrival of strike partner Joyce Landagan.

Jessica Moldes and Rudilyn Calbog emerged from their shell to score the goals that ensured Negros Oriental's safe passage to the knockout phase.

Manalo trips Feijen, battles Archer next

RISING FILIPINO CUE STAR MARLON MANALO NEEDED A ONE-RACK TIEbreaker to nip Dutch master Niels Feijen Thursday and advance to the second round of the winner-take-all $50,000 International Challenge of Champions at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Connecticut.

The Hague-based Feijen won the first set by a 5-2 count, but Manalo equalized by taking the second set, also at 5-2, to force the sudden-death.

The 30-year-old Manalo, fresh off his lucrative runner-up finish in the recent International Pool Tour 8-ball shoot-out ifi Las Vegas, is slated to face five-time world champion Johnny Archer of the United States in the semifinals.

Archer won over another Dutchman, Alex Lely, after another tiebreaker.

Former world champ Thorsten Hohman of Germany and defending champion Chao Fong-pang of Chinese-Taipei clash in the other semifinal duel.

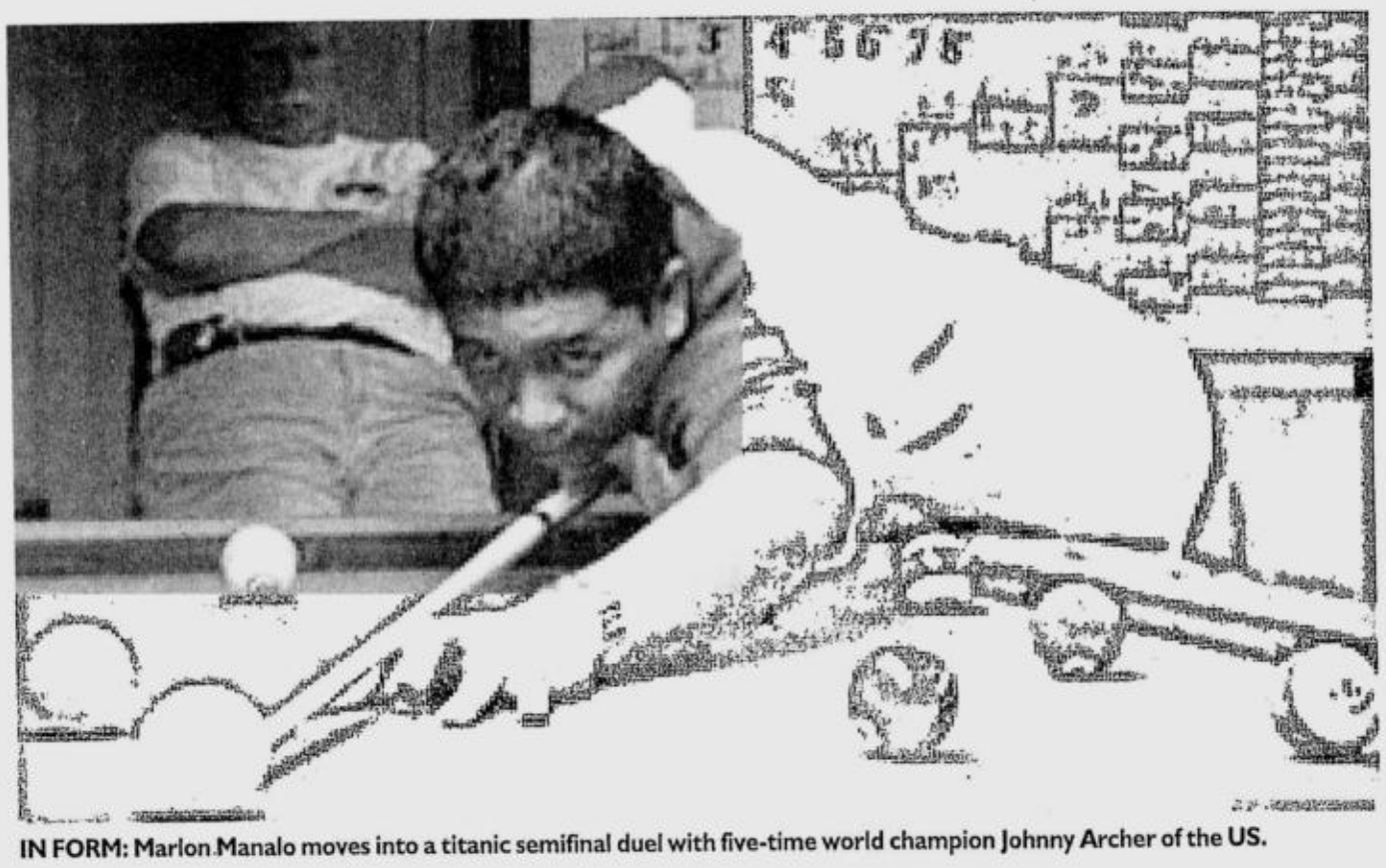
Hohmann, who beat Manalo in the IPT finals, blanked Filipino Santos Sambajon, 5-2, 5-3, while Fong, also routed fellow former World Pool titlist Ralf Souquet of Germany, 5-1, 5-4.

Manalo, a former Asian snooker champion, is aiming to match the feats of illustrious compatriots Efren "Bata" Reyes, who won the 2002 edition of the event, and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, the 2003 championt.

Reyes beat Mika Immonen of Finland for the 2002 champoionship while Bustamante beat Canadian John Horsfall for the 2003 crown.

The eight-man invitational tournament format calls for a two-set match of five games each set, with a one-game sudden death tiebreaker in the event of a tie. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Results—Johnny Archer vs Alex Lely (5-2), (2-5), (1-0); Niels Feijen vs **Marlon Manalo** (5-2), (2-5), (0-1); Thorsten Hohmann vs **Santos Sambajon** (5-2, (5-3); Chao Fong-pang vs Ralf Souquet (5-1),(5-4).
Semisfinals: Johnny Archer vs Marlon Manalo; Thorsten Hohmann vs Chao Fong-pang



IN FORM: Marlon Manalo moves into a titanic semifinal duel with five-time world champion Johnny Archer of the US.

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SPORTSWATCH

Cariño salvages win over Pates

SECOND SEED MICHAEL CARIño came back from a losing position Tuesday to beat No. 13 seed Rodolfo Pates and keep his share of the lead with two rounds to go in the MCC Nonmaster chess at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City. Cariño forced the 62-year-old Pates to resign in 45 moves of a Sicilian variation game for his third point in as many games, the same output of No. 4 Rodolfo Mendoza, who outplayed Ed Garrovillas of Jose Rizal U, in 67 moves of an English opening. Top seed Dino Ballecer of College of St. Benile moved up to 2.5 points after besting Marvin Marcos in 34 moves of a Slav.

Pasay 3-cocker gets under way

THE ONLY COCKFIGHTING derby scheduled in Metro Manila today fires off at the Pasay City Cockpit via a 3-cocker bannering 56 matches. The derby, sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, starts at 7 p.m. The champion will get a cash prize of P150,000, said hosts Gerry Maningas and Jun Bono. Another 3-cock derby sizzles at the same venue on Aug. 18 with Danny Aguilar as host. Meanwhile, the 5-stag derby series of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) will be held on Sept. 1, 15, 22 and on Oct. 6, 13 and 27. Stags with wingbands of the Labanan Group, PCAP and NFGB Bakbakan will be accepted. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

SJC stag derby screening today

COCKERS AND BREEDERS seeing action in the upcoming "Rambulan" 5-stag derby may bring their stags to the San Juan Coliseum office from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. today and tomorrow for screening and wingbanding. Slated on Aug. 21, 23, 25, 28 and 30, the stagfest dangles a prize pot of P2.5 million. Entry fee is P8,800. "Since this will be the first stag derby for 2006, the participants are eager to test the mettle of their new fighters," said promoter Ronnie Lacsina. Stags with wingbands of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) and the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) will be accepted. For inquiries, call 0918-9001411 or 725-5369.

Boxing KOd in public schools

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I WAS ELATED TO READ RECENTLY that a top official of the Department of Education has ruled out the inclusion of boxing in Physical Education (PE) classes of the country's elementary and public high schools.

According to INQUIRER reporter Alcuin Papa, Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo, head of DepEd's plans and programs, said the department junked the proposal to include boxing in the school curriculum because the department does not have the resources, technical expertise and qualified instructors to teach the sport to students.

"We prefer to teach them the basic skills such as English, Math and Science," said Hidalgo.

Teaching boxing in schools is a no-brainer. As I said in a previous piece (PDI, 07/21/06), boxing does not teach good values to the students. It is a violent and dangerous sport, both in theory and practice, because the main aim is to maim. The medical evidence against boxing is overwhelming that there's a possibility of both serious and long-term brain injury to athletes who are involved in boxing.

Dr. Joseph Boyle, president of the American Medical Association, said people are seriously disabled even after a short exposure to boxing, while a professor of brain sciences, Dr. Dominick Purpura of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, said that repeated blows to the head of a young person can stunt the development of his brain.

On the theory that boxing is a route to fame and fortune, citing the case of Manny Pacquiao as an example, I say Pacquiao's success story is a very rare case and could only happen once in a blue moon.

How about the many other cases of boxers being exploited; of prizefighters (in pro boxing) not being paid their purses; of the Games and Amusements Board, which is supposed to assure that every promotion contributes to the enhancement of public interest in pro boxing, approving one-sided fight cards and then treating the erring promoters lightly?

Speaking of Pacquiao, many people are opposed to the idea of drafting the boxing hero as running mate of Ali Atienza, who is being groomed to run as mayor of Manila during next year's elections.

"What more is there to prove? He is already rich and famous," said one Pacquiao supporter.

Another said (in Tagalog), *"Huwag sana siyang magtiwala sa kanyang popularidad. Masasayang lamang ang kanyang pagod at pera. Hindi siya mananalo dahil matalino na ang mga botante. Mag-boksing na lamang siya."*

On the other hand, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said that he had not endorsed Pacquiao to run as vice mayor of his son, Arnold "Ali" Atienza. The mayor said that Pacquiao, a family friend, merely offered to help him carry out his development projects to repay the support given him by the city government to boost his boxing career.

* * *

Filipino billiards pros are on course for a sweep. The recent victory of veteran internationalist Rodolfo Luat over hometown bet Hsia Hui-kai, 11-7, in the third leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour in Kaohsiung, the harbor city in southern Taiwan, boosted the Filipinos' chances of scoring a first ever sweep of the four-year-old SMB Asian Tour. The fourth and final stop of the Asian Tour will be held in Jakarta on Sept. 15-17. It is sanctioned by the Asian Pocket Billiard Union and organized by ESPN Sports.

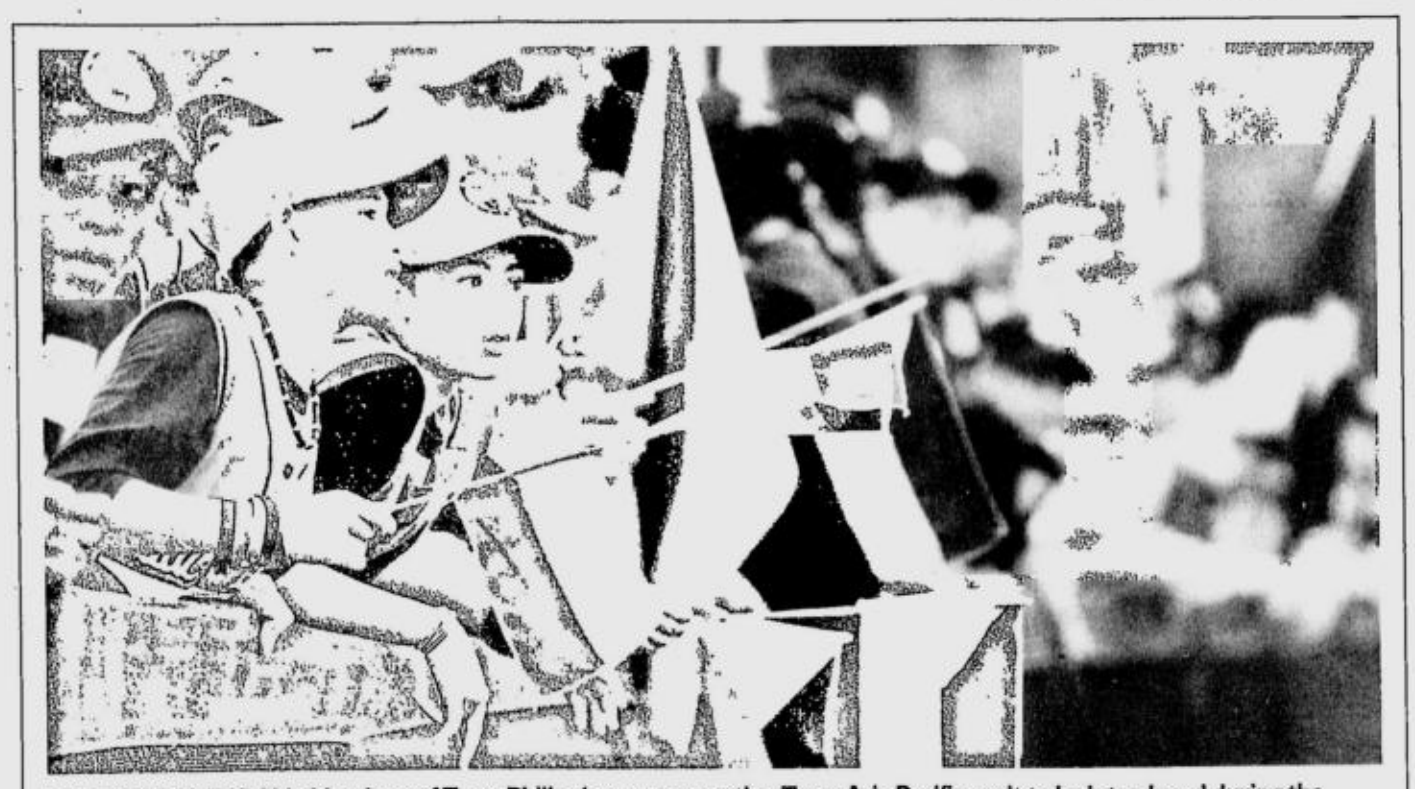
Efren "Bata" Reyes won the first leg in Ho Chi Minh City last May 7 while Ramil Gallego ruled the next stage in Bangkok on June 4.

I picked the Philippine team to sweep this year's Asian Tour based on form and their vast experience. And, with Luat's recent triumph in Kaohsiung, chances are looking good the players will prove me right. Also in the RP team are former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante and 1998 Bangkok Asian Games gold medal winner Gande Valle, who won the Singapore stop of the 2005 Asian Tour.

Meanwhile, a well-rested Reyes and buddy Bustamante are all set to carry the country's colors in the World Cup of Pool on Aug. 22-27 in Newport, South Wales. The Reyes-Bustamante tandem, however, will miss the BSCP Philippine Open set for Aug. 15-20 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium because they have to be in South Wales at least four days before the World Cup for the pre-tournament interviews, TV appearances and, more importantly, for the needed acclimatization.

"I have no worries," said the battle-tested Reyes, who will be 52 on Aug. 26. Bustamante, 41, also exuded confidence, saying he is ready to do battle against the top two players of 32 participating countries. The winning pair gets the first prize money of $60,000. The total prize pot is $250,000.

The Philippines heads the Asian group which also includes Taiwan, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand. Europe will have 16 teams, the Americas two and the rest of the world four.



READY TO PLAY BALL: Members of Team Philippines, representing Team Asia Pacific, wait to be introduced during the opening ceremony of the Little League Softball World Series on Wednesday afternoon in Beaverton, Oregon. The Filipino youngsters are among the dark horses in the multi-nation tournament that starts Thursday (Friday in Manila). AP

Knights seek share of lead vs Bombers

WITH A FINAL FOUR SEAT SAFELY TUCKED AWAY, LETRAN CAN FORGET about San Beda in the meantime.

The defending champion Knights slug it out with Jose Rizal U Heavy Bombers today, shooting for a share of the lead with the idle Red Lions in the NCAA senior basketball tournament.

Game time is 2 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium with the Knights tagged as favorites to repeat, climb back in the company of first-round tormentor Lions, and move closer toward a top-two finish in the eliminations for a twice-to-beat semifinal incentive.

STANDINGS	W	L
San Beda	9	1
Letran	8	1
PCU	8	2
Mapua	5	4
SSC	3	7
Perpetual	2	7
Jose Rizal	2	7
St. Benilde	1	9

GAMES TODAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
12 noon—Jose Rizal U vs. Letran (Jrs/Srs)
4p.m.—Perpetual Help vs. Mapua (Srs)

In solo second with an 8-1 card, the Knights are assured of advancing to the semifinals like the Lions and Philippine Christian U Dolphins.

The only things left to be decided in the eliminations are the final rankings and who finishes as the fourth-best team.

As things stand, Mapua, at 5-4, has the inside track to board the last bus. The Cardinals can get closer to this goal when they collide with the dangerous Perpetual Help Altas in the other seniors match-up at 4 o'clock.

San Beda, which became a rock-solid force with 6-foot-8 Nigerian Samuel Ekwe manning the middle, is pacing the field at 9-1, while the Gabby Espinas-led PCU is in third place with an 8-2 card.

The San Sebastian Stags (3-7) are the closest side to the fourth-running Cardinals at the moment with the Altas and the Bombers sharing 2-7 records.

Only the College of St. Benilde Blazers are out of it all with a 1-9 slate.

The only Letran loss came at the hands of San Beda, 57-49, at the end of the first round. It was a game that failed to live up to the classy hype it generated after Letran struggled throughout.

"Every game is very crucial," Letran coach Louie Alas said.

"We have to step up if we want to go to the next level. We can't afford to fall into lapses again."

Another one of those lapses came in the first round against the still unpredictable Bombers.

But the Knights, who will be coming into this game seeking to extend a two-game win streak, were still fortunate to escape with a 74-70 victory. *Musong R. Castillo*

DRAGONS' BUILDUP

3 dispersal picks boost Welcoat

WELCOAT PAINTS PICKED UP THREE more players from the dispersal draft, giving the Philippine Basketball Association's newest ballclub a 10-player cast who will start working out on Aug. 16.

The Dragons acquired big men Rob Wainwright and Gilbert Lao and guard Denver Lopez from the expansion pool held yesterday at the Ultra Auditorium.

Team manager Boy Lapid said coach Leo Austria can now start whipping the Dragons into shape after earlier recruiting free agents Jojo Tangkay, Froilan Baguion, Nino Gelig and Adonis Sta. Maria to join rookies Jay Sagad, JayR Reyes and Junjun Cabatu.

Lapid said Welcoat had already come to terms with Tangkay, Baguion, Gelig and Sta. Maria, who made good impressions in a recent tryouts.

"We're satisfied with what we got in the dispersal draft. We talked about our plans for almost 12 hours at *maganda naman ang kinalabasan* (and the outcome was good)," said Lapid after the exercise presided over by league commissioner Noli Eala and attended by representatives from all 10 ball clubs.

"We tried to get our former players who helped us win championships in the PBL. They were protected by their teams but we hope to get them in three to five years' time," Lapid added.

Rommel Adducul, Eddie Laure, Marc Pingris, James Yap, Don Allado, Nelbert Omolon and Renren Ritualo were among the former Paint Masters they had hoped to get in the draft.

Other players chosen by Welcoat were Air21's Ranidel de Ocampo and Nino Canaleta, Barangay Ginebra's Eric Menk, Alaska Milk's Sonny Thoss, San Miguel's Dorian Pena, Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva and Larry Fonacier and Sta. Lucia's Alex Cabagnot.

All of them, however, were in the protected list of their respective teams.

"We're happy. I think we already have a competitive team," said Lapid.

Welcoat starts its training four days before the 2006 Rookie Draft set at Market! Market in Taguig.

Another Fernando comes to fore as Samsung Am leader

TAAL, BATANGAS—CALATAGAN'S Mark Fernando grabbed the lead in the championship division with an even-par 72 in yesterday's penultimate round of the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour leg at the Splendido Taal Golf Club course here.

Fernando, a member of the Calatagan stable of young talents, forged ahead with a 144 total. He played the first 13 holes at two under but bogeyed two of the last five to match his opening round.

Ferdie Aunzo, co-leader with Fernando's cousin Anthony in the first round, bogeyed the last hole for a two-over-par 74 and a 145 aggregate through 36 holes of this event that was reduced to 54 holes after the first round was rained out.

Aunzo will have the Fernandos, members of the golfing clan from Zamboanga, to contend with in today's final round as Anthony was just three shots off at 147 after a 76, his bid hurt by three bogeys in a four-hole stretch from the 10th.

Jungolfer Regine de Guzman, Lee So-won and Virginia Bote took the division titles in ladies' play while Darwish Bederi copped the men's Class D plum. Raul Ilagan had earlier won the Class C crown.

Taylor Made is providing major support to this fourth of five elimination legs set all over the country. The other sponsors are C-Lium Fibre, Microtel, Titleist, Custom Clubmakers/KZG, Sunbolt and Sunrise Hotel in Tagaytay, the official hotel of the leg, which provided discounts for participants. Media partners are Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9 and 99.5 RT while Solar Sports Plus will air highlights of the event.

De Guzman scored a 74 to beat Ki Ha Ram by three in Class A, Lee's 84 gave her a four-stroke win over Princess Superal in Class B and Bote beat Josie Amon by five in Class C with his 103.

Bederi, meanwhile, clinched his spot in the grand finals in November at Mt. Malarayat when he scored a 93 to finish five shots ahead of Sergio Ong and Zhang Yong Tai.

Already in the finals of the championship division are Marvin Dumandan, Jun Bernis and Gene Bondoc.

Action-hungry Lebanese due today

THE LEBANESE NATIONAL TEAM MAKES A rare appearance in the country this Sunday and Tuesday on its way to the world basketball championship in Japan which starts Aug. 19.

Scheduled to arrive today from Jordan, Asia's No. 2 team behind powerhouse China may not get, however, the quality workout it desperately needs against the Philippine team.

The Philippine Basketball Association-backed National team that recently played in an Invitational tournament in Qatar has been disbanded and coach Chot Reyes said he is finding it hard to assemble a new squad.

"A lot depends on the availability of the players," said Reyes after presiding over a team scrimmage Wednesday night at the Club 650 gym in Libis, Quezon City.

Present in that workout were just six players—Dennis Miranda of Coca-Cola, Mike Cortez, Sonny Thoss and Willie Miller of Alaska, Billy Mamaril of Ginebra, and Asi Taulava of Talk 'N Text.

Should a team composed of PBA players from different teams be unavailable in time for the exhibition matches at 6 p.m. on Aug. 13 at Cuneta Astrodome and at 7 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum, a PBA ballclub could be asked to step in.

"That's an option," said Reyes, the new head coach of San Miguel Beer. "But you will have to talk to commissioner (Noli) Eala about that."

In that eventuality, however, San Miguel Beer would not be able to make it as a replacement opponent for Lebanon since it is leaving today for Taipei to compete in the Asian Professional Basketball tournament from Aug. 11-19.

LEBANON'S national basketball team members gather around US coach Paul Coughter (in black shirt) before their game against the Pan-Arab team in Amman. REUTERS

Lebanon, which is pursuing its Fiba commitment despite a worsening armed conflict with Israel, has been bracketed in Group A in the world championship along with Argentina, France, Nigeria, Serbia and Montenegro and Venezuela.

China and the US are in Group D, Asian No. 3 Qatar is in Group C while host Japan is in Group B.

With less than three months to go before the start of the 2006-07 season, PBA ballclubs are hanging on to their key players as training and preparation shift to high gear.

"While we want to continue our support of the national team, we also need to attend to the needs of our team which was the worst-performing ballclub last conference," said Ricky Vargas, the new PBA board chair from Talk 'N Text.

NEW RP RECORD: Four-time Angler of the Year and Hall of Famer Rico Gueco (left) shows off the 106-kilogram yellow-fin tuna he landed in the June tournament of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation (PGFF) off Puerto Princesa, Palawan. The catch broke the old RP gamefishing record of 103 kg, set by Joseph Lee in July 1992 off San Joaquin, Iloilo, for the heaviest yellow-fin tuna under the IGFA standard 50-lb line. The tuna propelled Gueco's team that included Bong Nery (center), Lito Tanseco (right) and Rolly Buensalida to second in the tournament sponsored by Standard Insurance Company. Gueco also leads the Angler of the Year race.

2nd archery qualifying tourney comes off wraps

THIRTY-FIVE ARCHERS WILL VIE FOR HONors in the three-day second qualifying tournament for the Philippine archery team to the 2006 Doha Asian Games starting today at the Pampanga Agricultural College in Magalang, Pampanga.

The entries include Athens Olympian Jasmin Figueroa, Rachelle Anne Cabral, Mark Javier, Paul Marton dela Cruz, Amaya Paz, Earl Benjamin Yap, Enrique Cojuangco, Karl Francis Achacoso, Palarong Pambansa titlist Janet Berman, members of the national and training pool and Dumaguete athletes.

The qualifying round for 90 meters, 70m, 60m, 50m and 30m will be held today and tomorrow, while the Olympic Round event will be staged on Sunday, Aug. 13.

FIGUEROA

PAC president Dr. Zosimo Battad will open the tournament.

Engineer Allan Morales, PAC professor and director for auxiliary services, was appointed tournament director-manager.

Ms Fe Empaynado and lawyer Ruperto T. Sampoleo were named chair of the judge commission and director of shooting.

Karangalan takes maiden title

KARANGALAN DUCKPIN Bowling Club (KADBC) finally bagged a team crown by winning the 31st National Charter Open championship of the Philippine Duckpin Bowling Council (PHIDBC) recently at the Marketplace Center in Mandaluyong City.

Skippered by its president and PHIDBC board member Tom Moreno, KADBC beat ADBBB (Association of Duckpin Bowlers of Baguio Benguet), 315-291, in the men's finals for its first ever title.

ADBBB earned a shot at KADBC by ousting CADBA-Diamonds of Cainta, 323-320.

Novaliches Sunday Bowling Association topped women's team play by whipping the Cainta-Fairies, 341-333.

The Fairies advanced to the finals by whipping the Iloilo City ladies, 319-289.

Nilo Neponcio of MBA and Enock de Sagun of Batangas City emerged men's and ladies' singles champions.

Neponcio downed SODA's Moy Lumbay, 216-198, after Lumbay has ousted Iloilo City's Arnel Tubuhan, 128-100, while De Sagun nipped NSBA's Geena Gregorio, 244-243, after Gregorio had beaten Cainta's Lorenz Hilaus, 117-91.

Army, AFP booters boost s'final hopes

ARMY AND AFP SELECTION PLAYED TRUE to form, beating lowly opponents to stay in the hunt for semifinal berths in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the Blue Eagle Gym over the weekend.

The Armymen cruised to their eighth straight victory with a 7-3 trouncing of Superfriends on Saturday to stay in the lead in the men's First Division even as AFP Selection totally outplayed Thonburi, 9-4, on Sunday to remain unchallenged in the men's Second Division-B.

Nestorio Margase and Wilson dela Cruz again led the Army assault as they combined for five of the side's seven goals in dealing Superfriends its fourth loss in seven games.

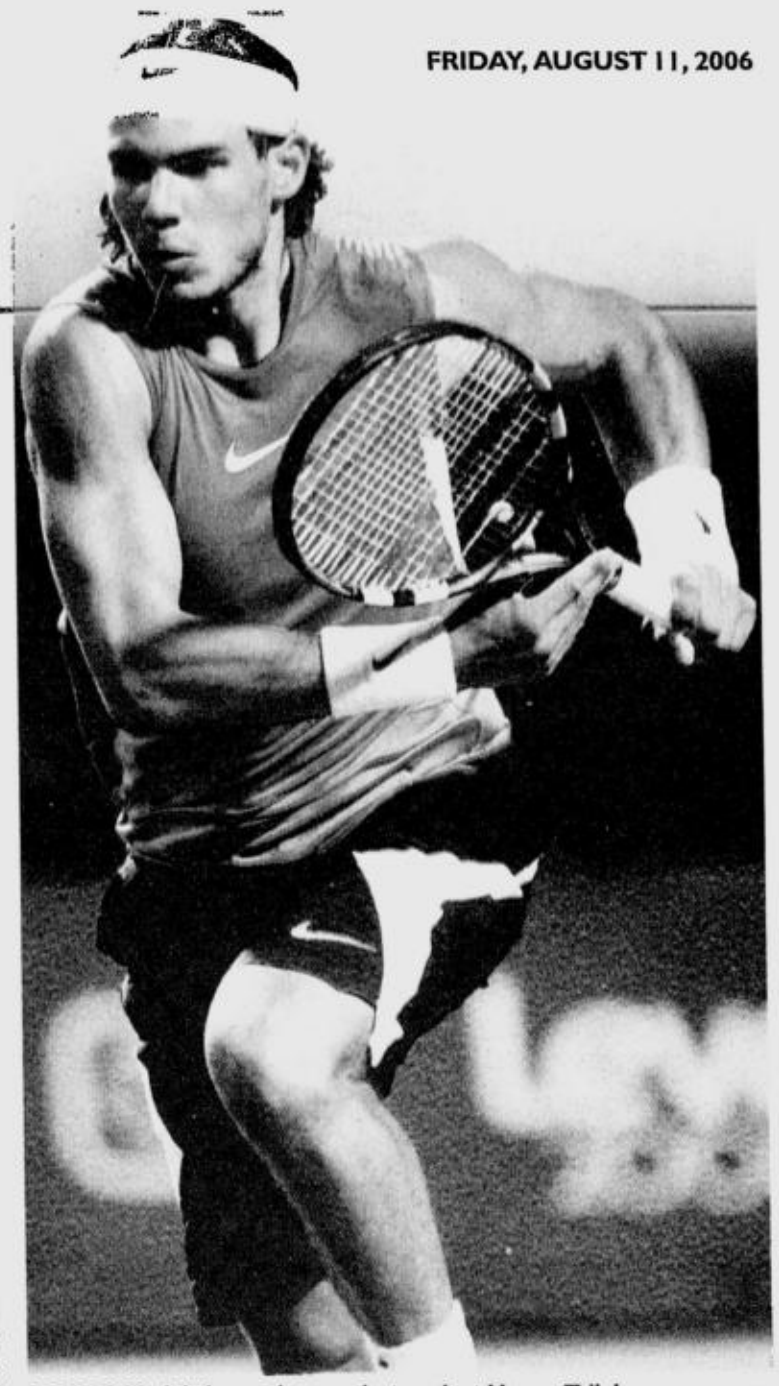
In other results Saturday, Navy and Kaya battled to a 2-2 standoff while Air Force whipped Pasargad FC, 10-5, in the day's final match.

Navy improved to 1-2-4 (win-draw-loss), Kaya upped its mark to 2-1-5; Air Force also rose to 6-1-1 while Pasargad dropped to 2-1-5 with only two weekends remaining in the tournament sponsored by Adidas in cooperation with the National Capital Region Football Association.

Other quarterfinal results last Sunday in the event co-presented by Cherifer Multivitamin, Blue Angel Alcohol and Snickers Chocolate Bar; Lions FC d. Los Merrengues, 10-0; Marines-B d.. Xavier Alumni FC, 8-0; El Magistrado d. Pagcor, 18-2; Marines-A d. Archers Luce, 8-5, and Los Borrachos d. Ateneo, 5-1.

SPORTS

Federer, Nadal stay on collision course



RAFAEL Nadal chases down a shot against Hyung-Taik Lee. AFP

TORONTO—TOP-RANKED ROGER FEDERER PUT AWAY SEBASTIEN Grosjean, 6-3, 6-3, IN THE SECOND ROUND of the Rogers Cup Wednesday and won his 50th straight match in North America.

Federer broke Grosjean in the eighth game of the first set, started the second set with another break then lost his own serve straight away. He won the last three games to advance to a third-round match against in-form Dmitry Tursunov of Russia.

"I had to adjust from playing last night," Federer said. "(The court) was much quicker today, it allowed me to be more aggressive."

Since he lost in the first round of Cincinnati in August 2004, Federer has won eight successive North American tournaments, including the last two US Opens.

Defending champion Rafael Nadal defeated Lee Hyung-taik of South Korea, 6-4, 6-3.

"I didn't play my best but that's okay, I won," said Nadal, who lined up Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic in the third round.

Fifth-seeded James Blake and seventh-seeded Tommy Robredo both exited, leaving only three of the top 10 seeds.

Richard Gasquet of France upset Blake, 6-4, 6-3, in their first meeting. The 20-year-old Frenchman has won 12 of his last 14 matches, including titles at Nottingham in June and Gstaad last month.

Blake, No. 6 in the world, hindered his effort by committing 29 unforced errors, and lost his serve six times to Gasquet.

"That's pretty impressive for somebody that is not physically so large. If I'm not playing my best tennis, I'm going to lose to a guy like that. He played well. I did everything I could."

Robredo was undone by Jose Acasuso of Argentina, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

No. 4-seeded Ivan Ljubicic defeated France's Arnaud Clement, the winner in Washington on Sunday, 7-6 (6), 6-4, and reached the tournament's third round for the first time at his sixth attempt.

Former Rogers Cup champ Thomas Johansson advanced when Lleyton Hewitt retired while trailing 6-3, 3-2 with a right knee injury he hurt last week in Washington.

Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, Carlos Moya of Spain and Berdych breezed into the round of 16.

Gonzalez, No. 16 in the world, defeated Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, 6-2, 6-1. Gonzalez was successful on 88 percent of his first serves against Ferrero, and faces Ljubicic next.

Moya defeated Denis Gremelmayr of Germany, 6-1, 6-4, and 13th-seeded Berdych downed Mikhail Youzhny of Russia, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Tursunov steamrolled 16th-seeded Tommy Haas in the final set to win 7-5, 2-6, 6-1. Tursunov reached the Los Angeles final and Washington semifinals in the last two weeks.

Xavier Malisse of Belgium beat Paradorn Srichaphan, 7-6 (3), 6-3, with only one break, while the Thai missed four chances, Julien Benneteau of France upset Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia, 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-1, in 2 hours, 30 minutes; and Andy Murray underlined his status as British No. 1 by beating Tim Henman, 6-2, 7-6 (3), for the second straight time. *AP*

Amacu trips UMak, keeps second place

AMA COMPUTER UNIVERSITY BEAT UNIversity of Makati, 71-68, to tighten its hold of second place in the 2006 Naascu Men's basketball tournament at the UM gym.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC-Cavite	6	0
AMACU	4	1
New Era	3	2
CEU	3	2
STI	2	2
PLP	2	3
St. Clare	2	3
UMak	2	4
UM	1	4
Holy Angels	1	5

Chito Jaime top-scored with 19 points for the Titans of coach Boni Garcia and team adviser Richard delos Santos. Patrick Mercado and Dan Vergara added 12 points each.

The Wizards were paced by Jeff Tamaray with 17 points, Tonton Silva with 16, Bong Nograda with 14 and John Tapit with 11.

University of Makati, however, redeemed itself by edging AMA, 80-79, in the junior division.

Ronald Facundo scattered 21 points for the Baby Wizards, who improved to 1-2. John Junsay and Cyrus Elman added 13 points apiece.

Sander Salvador scored 27 points for the Baby Titans, who suffered their fourth loss in five matches.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

UMAK 80—Facundo 21, Junsay 13, Elman 13, Sanchez 11, Portentado 11, San Juan 7, Barola 2, Calsado 2, Capil 0.

AMACU 79—Salvador 27, Mendoza 13, Manson 9, Tan 8, Masigan 7, Maravilla 6, Camacho 5, Sumayang 4, Dia 0, Tan 0, Book 0.

Quarters: 14-21, 36-43, 58-52, 80-79

Second Game (Srs)

AMACU 71—Jaime 19, Mercado 12, Vergara 12, Galang 7, Franco 5, Galvez 5, Gabica 4, Suarez 3, Abac 2, Baena 2, Padilla 0, De Guzman 0.

UMAK 68—Tamaray 17, Silva 16, Nograda 14, Tapit 11, Banguibang 5, Commerciasse 5, Jacinto 0, Barrios 0, Baylon 0.

Quarters: 19-26, 40-35, 56-52, 71-68

MARIA Sharapova returns a shot to fellow Russian Anastassia Rodionova Wednesday. AP

Sharapova shows fine form; Davenport exits

LOS ANGELES—SAMANTHA STOsur spoiled Lindsay Davenport's return from injury Wednesday, outlasting the former world number one, 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 6-3, to reach the third round of this $600,000 WTA US Open tuneup.

Davenport, seeded fourth, was playing for the first time since March, when she revealed she had been diagnosed with a bulging disk in her lower back.

"It stinks," Davenport said of the defeat. "But it is a step forward for me."

While Davenport can only hope her abbreviated preparations for the US Open will be enough, top-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova continued to display solid form heading into the final Grand Slam of the year.

Sharapova, winner of the title at San Diego on Sunday, opened her Los Angeles campaign with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over compatriot Anastassia Rodionova.

The 106th-ranked qualifier surprised Sharapova with a break of serve in the fifth game of the opening set. But it seemed only to galvanize Sharapova, who lost just three points in the next four games as she closed out the set in 28 minutes.

The world No. 4 then cruised through the second set to book a third-round clash with France's Marion Bartoli.

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams continued her progress back from injury with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Ashley Harkleroad.

Williams is playing just her third tournament of the year—her second since a six-month injury layoff.

In the third round she'll face seventh-seeded Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova, a 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 winner over Raymond.

Hantuchova dethroned Williams in the third round of the Australian Open in January, and the American didn't play again until three weeks ago, when she reached the semifinals in Cincinnati.

Williams said she was looking forward to the rematch. *AFP*

Pierce goes under knife

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—BOSTON CELtics forward Paul Pierce, whose injured left elbow kept him from playing for the United States at the World Basketball Championships, underwent arthroscopic surgery Wednesday. The operation is expected to allow the five-time All-Star to return for the start of National Basketball Association training camp for the Celtics, who in July signed Pierce to a three-year contract extension worth $60 million. Pierce, 28, will make $15.1 million for the upcoming season and $16.3 million in 2007-08 on a deal that runs into 2011. *AFP*

Ross slams two-run homer to power Reds past Cards

NEW YORK—CINCINNATI REDS pinch hitter David Ross slammed a walk off two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth to give his team an 8-7 victory over St. Louis Wednesday, keeping the pressure on the Cardinals in the NL Central division.

Adam Dunn, Scott Hatteberg and Edwin Encarnacion also homered for the Reds but it was Ross' 14th of the season that sent the sellout crowd at the Great American Ball Park home happy as the Reds moved to within 2 ½ games of the Cards.

Trailing by a run and down to their last two outs, Ross took a 1-0 offering from Cardinals closer Jason Isringhausen and sent it deep over the wall in center field to cash in pinch runner Chris Denorfia.

The blast sparked the predictable celebration, the crowd of 41,649 jumped to their feet as Ross rounded the bases before being mobbed at home plate.

The mood was not so upbeat in the first inning after Jim Edmonds connected on his sixth career grand slam to give the Cardinals a 4-0 lead.

However, the Reds immediately began to chip away at the deficit, starting with a solo home run from Dunn off Chris Carpenter.

Hatteberg and Encarnacion then tagged the Cardinals starter for two more solo shots in the fourth, reducing St. Louis lead to a run.

In Atlanta, Chase Utley stroked a three-run double to key an eight-run seventh inning as the Philadelphia Phillies thrashed the Braves, 9-3, to collect their sixth win in nine games and remain in the thick of the NL wild card race.

Trailing 3-1 the Phillies sent 14 batters to the plate during their seventh inning uprising. *Reuters*

TEXAS Rangers' Gerald Laird chases a line drive against the Oakland A's. Texas won, 14-0. AP

Streetball nat'l finals Saturday at Mall of Asia

THE CAST IS COMPLETE FOR THE NATIONAL finals of the 2006 Adidas Streetball Challenge set on Saturday at the Music Hall of the Mall of Asia.

The boys' teams are Jet from Faith Academy representing the National Capital Region, Team Mac from the Holy Child School of Davao City for Mindanao, Backdown, from the Cordillera Career Development College that topped the Luzon regionals, and Jumpstop, composed of players from Cebu's University of San Carlos.

In the girls' side, the contending teams are Uraha from UST, representing NCR; Mindanao champion Phexjaq from the Assumption College of Davao, Uproar from the University of the Cordilleras for Luzon, and Venture from the University of San Carlos, the Visayas champion.

This will be the last 3 on 3 Streetball Challenge in the country as it will shift to a 5 on 5 format next year, according to Adidas Sports Marketing Manager Goody Custodio.

The Philippines, then represented by a team from San Beda College, is the defending champion in the Asian Streetball.

Enchanted hosts Superkarting tilt

THE 2006 SHELL SUPERKARTING SERIES goes to the EKart Track of the Enchanted Kingdom tomorrow in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Main focus will be on the ROK Junior class where Cebu Racing Group's Paco Rodriguez and Juha Turalba will again try to get in the way of the rivalry between Javi Benitez of Jet Racing and reigning Cadet Karter of the Year John Alvarez.

Rodriguez, parading a brand new engine, stole the spotlight from Benitez and Alvarez when he captured his very first win of the season in the last leg. That feat moved him up fourth overall with 222 points in the event sponsored by Shell Helix, San Mig Coffee, Denso Iridium Power, Honda Phils., Eastway Company, Aeromed Ambulance Transport and Yokohama Kart Tires.

Turalba wound up runner-up and jumped to second place overall with 242 points.

Kane chasing elusive Canadian victory

FILIPINO Jennifer Rosales checks the wind during the Pro-Am. AP

LONDON, ONTARIO—LORIE KANE is hard to miss at the Canadian Women's Open.

The face of women's golf in Canada, her picture is seemingly everywhere at the London Hunt and Country Club. She draws cheers and shouts of encouragement at every turn and leaves a long trail of adoring fans clutching autographed hats and programs.

"I'm proud of that. I've worked hard on my game and myself," said Kane, sporting tournament-saving title sponsor CN's logo on her red visor. "For people to acknowledge my hard work and follow me, fellow Canadians or not, it's just a real honor."

The 41-year-old Kane is trying to become the second Canadian to win a US LPGA Tour event in Canada. Jocelyne Bourassa accomplished the feat in the 1973 La Canadienne. That event was the forerunner to the du Maurier Classic, a major championship for 22 years that folded after the 2000 event because of restrictions on tobacco promotions.

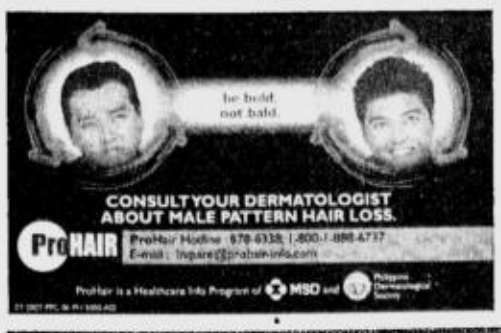
"I know that every fan out there wants a Canadian to win and I want it to be me," Kane said Wednesday, a day before the start of play. "But all I can do Thursday is put the peg in the ground and hit the first tee shot and then continue to chase it around for four more days."

CN agreed to a three-year contract with the Royal Canadian Golf Association in October, taking over the title sponsorship after Bank of Montreal's decision to drop out after five years left the tournament in danger of folding.

Kane has three top-eight finishes in the tournament and also tied for fifth in the final du Maurier Classic.

The four-time US LPGA Tour winner tied for 27th a year ago at Glen Arbour in Halifax, Nova Scotia—10 strokes behind winner Meena Lee.

Se Ri Pak, the McDonald's LPGA Championship winner, is in the field a week after a neck injury forced her to withdraw from the Women's British Open after a first-round 78. *AP*



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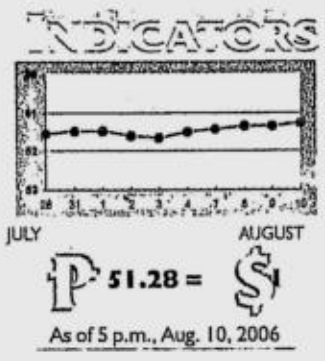
Peso hits 4-month high of 51.21 to $1



Exports post double-digit growth in June

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

THE PESO YESTERDAY RALLIED TO A FOUR-month high of 51.21 before closing at 51.28 against the dollar on prospects of more robust investment and trade inflows to the country and the rest of the Asian region.

The local currency was lifted by expectations of stable interest rates *(See story on page B2)*, more foreign inflows into peso-denominated assets as well as higher foreign exchange earnings from the shipment of electronic products abroad, currency traders said.

At yesterday's close, the peso gained another 9 centavos from Wednesday's 51.37 against the greenback while volume turnover at the Philippine Deal-

PESO/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

DOF's dollar daze /B3

AyalaLandPREMIER

No wonder mealtimes take a little bit longer at Ayala Westgrove Heights.

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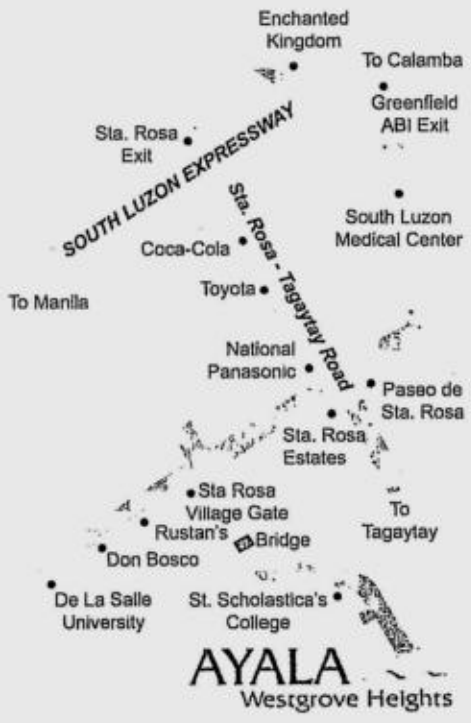

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BSP keeps policy rates unchanged

Sees inflation slowing down

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY KEPT the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight rates steady for the 10th consecutive month in line with prospects of a further slowdown in the country's inflation rate.

After the board's monthly monetary-setting meeting, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. announced that the overnight borrowing rate was kept unchanged at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent, their levels since October 2005.

"Latest BSP forecasts continue to show a decelerating path for inflation over the policy horizon, with the likelihood that the target headline inflation rate in 2007 of 4-5 percent will be achieved, in the absence of additional cost-push shocks," Tetangco said in a statement released after the meeting.

"The sustained decline in core inflation also implies reduced generalized pressures on consumer prices. Moderate improvements in demand indicators and weak credit activity also suggest a scenario of limited demand-based price pressures," he said.

The government recently scaled down its inflation forecast for this year to 6.9-7 percent and further to 4.3-4.8 percent next year despite continued volatility in global oil prices.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee approved new macroeconomic assumptions, which lowered the inflation forecasts from earlier projections of 7.3-7.9 percent and 4.3-5 percent, respectively, for 2006 and 2007.

The revised inflation forecasts assumed that the impact of the expanded value-added tax would have been fully absorbed this year and that the conduct of elections in 2007 would have little effect on inflation since inflationary pressures from election spending have been minimal since the Edsa People Power revolt in 1986.

The country's inflation rate hit 6.9 percent in May and tapered off to 6.7 percent in June. In the first half of 2006, the country's inflation rate averaged at 7.1 percent.

But Tetangco said the Monetary Board was aware that the balance of risks to the future path of inflation remained on the upside mainly due to the outlook of higher oil prices.

The DBCC assumed that for this year, Dubai oil price would rise to an average of $63.42 a barrel from the earlier expectation of $62. It has also raised its forecast on Dubai oil prices for next year to $67.05 a barrel from the previous assumption of $63.

"The increasing trend toward 2007 is anticipated with Saudi Arabia still building up its refining capacity, expected to be ready only by 2008. The soundness of the oil prices was confirmed by the Department of Energy," the DBCC said in its latest report.

Tetangco said the "more than ample" liquidity in the banking system could also be a cause of concern.

"The (Monetary Board) recognized the need to remain focused on managing the risks to inflation expectations, assessing the likelihood of second-round effects and closely monitoring developments in liquidity conditions," Tetangco said.

"The (board) remains strongly committed to achieving the inflation target for 2007 and stands ready to act against emerging risks to the outlook for inflation and to inflation expectations," the BSP chief said.

Peso hits 4-month high of 51.21 to $1

From page B1

ing System hit $605 million yesterday.

"There's increasing interest among funds and financial institutions to shift to Philippine peso in anticipation of a further appreciation," Bank of the Philippine Islands vice president for treasury Estelito Biacora said in an interview.

He said the market was also buoyed by the strong performance of regional currencies that, in turn, was boosted by a rosier outlook on trade and investments across Asia.

"In the Philippines, there's also anticipation of further improvement on the fiscal side," Biacora said.

UBS, in its Asia Economic Monitor for August, said the strong peso had allowed the BSP to "decouple" from the US Federal Reserve's monetary tightening in previous months without jeopardizing exchange rate stability.

Alongside expectations of a weakening dollar, UBS said the strong growth in remittances from overseas Filipino workers would likely push the peso up further to the 50 level by year's end and further to 49 against the dollar by end-2007.

UBS predicted that the peso would average stronger at 51.50 this year and 49.50 next year, a sharp improvement from the 56 average in 2005.

"A rangebound peso plus 2007 elections imply the BSP would likely keep rates on hold in the second half of 2006," UBS said.

The foreign bank said the government's fiscal consolidation would also continue this year, with the fiscal deficit likely to fall to 2.1 percent of gross domestic product from 2.7 percent in 2005.

But for as long as the deficit remains in the order of 2-2.5 percent of GDP, UBS said the debt dynamics should be positive.

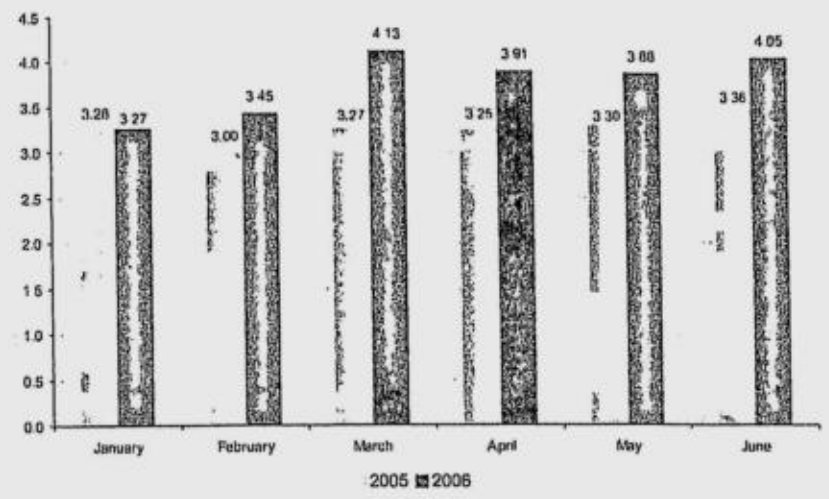
"In 2007, the trick will be to set spending limits to within new tax collection ability. Otherwise, the risk of a widening national government deficit would clearly increase," it said.

The continued expansion in exports was another boost to the peso.

Brisk demand

Merchandise exports posted another double-digit annual growth in June to $4.05 billion as sales of electronics and other major export products were boosted by brisk global demand.

TOTAL EXPORTS
January to June 2005 and 2006, in billion US dollars



Exports in June were 20.6-percent higher than the $3.36 billion recorded in the same month last year.

For the first six months of the year, exports reached $22.74 billion, or 16.8-percent more than the $19.47 billion shipped a year ago.

The exports performance in June prompted authorities to declare that the full-year export growth would stand at a double-digit figure, much ahead of the 8-percent official target set by the government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a televised roundtable discussion with members of her economic team yesterday that exports could post an annual growth rate of at least 15 percent for 2006.

"It is now definite that we will be hitting a double-digit export growth. The growth was remarkable because it came despite the global oil problem and the tension created by the Middle East conflict," said Dennis Arroyo, policy and planning director at the Neda.

Documents from the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that exports of electronics, accounting for 57.3 percent of the total for the month, increased 6.6 percent to $2.32 billion from $2.18 billion a year earlier.

The Neda official said the growth in electronics exports was brought by the cyclical increase in demand. He noted a report by the US-based Semiconductor Industry Association, which said that sales of chips globally hit $19.6 billion in June alone, representing a 9-percent annual growth rate.

Top exports

But Arroyo said electronics exports were not the sole strong performer as other export products likewise enjoyed higher demand.

Exports of garments were the country's second-biggest, accounting for $232.13 million of the total for June. This was 23.6-percent higher than the $187.76 million recorded in the same month last year.

Other top exports were: woodcrafts and furniture, rising year-on-year by 113.4 percent to $76.56 million; petroleum products, rising 51 percent to $76.51 million; ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships, up 4.7 percent to $54.45 million; and bananas, gaining 16.7 percent to $35.93 million.

The NSO said Japan was the Philippines' biggest export market for June, accounting for $822.2 million or 20.3 percent of total exports. Exports to Japan in June were 58.9 percent higher than a year ago.

The United States accounted for 17.2 percent or $696.69 million. Other top export destinations in June were China, $399.28 million; Hong Kong, $329.99 million; Singapore, $306.06 million; the Netherlands, $265.49 million; Malaysia, $223.5 million; Taiwan, $186.96 million; Germany, $139.33 million, and Thailand, $136.67 million.

SM to simplify corporate structure

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. OF MALL TYcoon Henry Sy said its board had approved a plan to reorganize and simplify the company's corporate structure by grouping subsidiaries, affiliates and other assets together based on their respective lines of business or interest.

The reorganization, which may be completed by the end of the year, aims at helping investment analysts forecast the company's future earnings and place a realistic value on its assets based on a more organized grouping.

"SM has become one of the country's largest conglomerates. Such a condition merits greater simplicity in the organization to better achieve efficiencies in SM and provide greater clarity in our financial reports," SM president Harley Sy said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In the disclosure, SMIC said it would realign the ownership of shares and pieces of property within SMIC to follow major business lines—retail merchandising, mall operations, banking and financial services, real estate, and private investments.

Under the plan, two new companies will be formed under SMIC before the end of the year.

SMIC's retail operations will be placed under a new company called SM Retail Inc. It will have under its wing the companies operating the SM Department Stores, SM Supermarkets and the SM Hypermarkets. This sector currently generates more than 70 percent of SMIC's total revenues.

For its various real estate developments, the group will put up SM Land Inc. This will hold various assets in real estate projects, subsidiaries, and affiliates of SMIC in residential, commercial and ecotourism-related development. These include SM Development Corp., Central Business Park, where the Mall of Asia is located; Highlands Prime Inc., Taal Vista Hotel Inc., and Hamilo Coast, the country's biggest ecotourism project spanning 5,700 hectares of resort and retirement village development in Nasugbu, Batangas.

SM Prime Holdings, which has been listed since 1994, will remain the sole mall operator of the group. It accounted for 18 percent of SMIC's revenues in 2005, and 53 percent of the net profit.

The banks, namely Banco de Oro and China Banking Corp., will continue to operate independently given their solid performance in the market and strong profitability. Last year, the banks contributed 5 percent to SMIC's revenues and 22 percent to net income. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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DOF's dollar daze

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PAID MARSman-Drysdale director Antero M. Sison Jr. and his Boston partner $4.8 million in claims during Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho's time, despite the pair's underlying financial instrument, a letter of credit, still being sequestered.

Now, the DOF is poised to pay about the same amount to another party. Only this time, the finance officials would have to because they have to comply with Supreme Court and Sandiganbayan orders.

The second payout pertains to the $4.4-million letter of credit issued during the late Marcos years by then government-owned Philippine National Bank to then California-based lawyer Vicente Chuidian.

A government corporation, the former Philguarantee, provided cover for the L/C. To make a long, complicated story short, the L/C is now being claimed, both in Philippine and US courts, by Chuidian and the finance department.

The finance department, through Tidcorp (Trade and Investment Development Corp.), bought all the US assets and claims against the bankrupt Chuidian estate from a San Francisco-based vulture fund represented by Sison and his Boston partner. (A vulture fund is a fund that buys securities in distressed investments, such as high-yield bonds in or near default, or equities that are in or near bankruptcy)

Late last month, an exasperated Supreme Court again directed PNB, now controlled by taipan Lucio Tan, to respect its 2001 order and deposit the L/C with Land Bank, where the money could earn interest while the courts determine its rightful owner.

For unclear reasons, Tidcorp did not notify both Supreme Court and Sandigan that it had already paid off in 2003 Sison and the US claimants to the L/C, shelling out $400,000 more than its face amount. In the meantime, PNB is crying foul over now having to cough up the $4.4 million, since, the bank claims, the contested L/C was already part of the liabilities assumed by the national government in 1987 preparatory to the bank's partial privatization and initial public offering.

Because of the 2003 settlement, Malacañang announced that then Tidcorp president Joel Valdes was being charged with graft, for having contravened a Makati Regional Trial Court ruling in 1996 that a US judgment being claimed by the U.S. vulture fund, Fidelity Partners, could not be enforced on Philippine soil.

In that 1996 Makati case, Fidelity Partners was represented by a lawyer named Manuel N. Camacho. But Valdes and then Tidcorp chair, Finance Secretary Camacho, said that the Tidcorp settlement had prior clearance not only from the Tidcorp board but also from the Department of Justice and the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

Camacho said the settlement with Sison and the U.S. fund had to be reached because DOF officials were always being harassed and served with summons whenever they were on American soil because of the pending Fidelity Partners' claim.

The irony of the settlement is that, according to Chuidian, quoting then Deputy Treasurer Sotera Umali, Fidelity Partners, after having lost hope to recover its $4.4-million claim, was willing to settle in 1999 for only $150,000, just to recover costs.

The DOF and Tidcorp denied the $150,000 offer, only to pay $4.8 million four years later.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Heard through the grapevine

THE hearings conducted by a Hong Kong court last week on the police raid against the Romulo Mabanta law office in the Chinese territory revealed that commercial documents pertaining to Brunei Prince Jeffrey Bolkiah and other VIP clients were among those seized.

(E-mail: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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In stockpiling oil, DOE calls for caution

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST Asian Nations (Asean) again brought up the issue of regional oil stockpiling, the Department of Energy yesterday cautioned proponents that stockpiling at a time of high prices may further drive up oil rates.

In a briefing yesterday, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said establishing a stockpile at a time when the regional benchmark Dubai crude was hovering close to all-time highs could stir up an already volatile market and cause prices to shoot up.

Lotilla explained that it would be more practical to start a stockpile during times of weak oil prices, considering the significant amount of investments required to establish large storage facilities and to build up oil reserves.

He also said that it would be a better idea to start the stockpile when the region, and the rest of the world, experiences a refinery overcapacity, which would likely cause prices to decline.

Lotilla expected this to happen by 2008.

According to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, world oil prices should soften by next year.

Lotilla also said Asean member-nations should be very clear on their objectives in establishing a stockpile.

"Clarity of purpose for the 'stockpiling—whether to address emergency supply disruptions or to cushion the fluctuations in the price of oil in the world market, or to hold commodities in anticipation of higher prices, or to provide subsidies—must be first addressed," he said.

In preparation for possible joint stockpiling, Lotilla proposed that fuel standards among Asean member-nations be harmonized.

Also, he said the Asean nations should consider storing non-traditional products, such as biofuels and their raw materials.

"Notwithstanding other factors that have to be considered in stockpiling, affordability is the basic constraint at this time of extremely high oil prices," he said.

The idea of a regional oil stockpile had been brought up in various regional meetings as Asean member-nations sought to promote energy security in the region.

In 2004, during the first Asean +3 Ministers on Energy Meeting held in Manila, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry offered to provide technical assistance for the conduct of feasibility studies on regional oil stockpiling.

SMC first-half profit up 15%

Philex income hit ₱1.2B in first half

PHILEX MINING CORP. SAID ITS NET income grew ten-fold to P1.2 billion in the first six months from P122.4 million last year due to the spike in the prices of gold and copper.

In a report to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Philex said the average copper prices rose by 98 percent to $3.11 a pound from year-ago level, while the average gold prices jumped 42 percent to $577 an ounce in the same period.

Last year, copper traded at $1.57 a pound while gold was at $405 an ounce.

Operating revenue in the first six months surged 70 percent to P4.3 billion from P2.5 billion last year.

Operating expenses rose to P2 billion in the first half from P1.9 billion last year.

Despite these setbacks, income from operations soared 584 percent to P1.6 billion from P226.9 million in the same period in 2005.

Philex noted that gold and copper prices were further improving with the current levels at $620 an ounce and $3.50 a pound, respectively. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Growth fueled by savings from cost cuts, earnings from Aussie dairy unit

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL CORP. YESTERDAY SAID THE strong revenue contribution from its Australian dairy unit boosted the group's first half net income to P4.36 billion, up by 15 percent from year-ago level.

In a disclosure, SMC said its consolidated net sales revenue for the first semester this year reached P121.6 billion, 21 percent higher than last year's level.

Its consolidated operating income, it added, surged 48 percent to P11.1 billion from the January-June level last year.

Industry sources said that in the first six months, National Foods Ltd. contributed to SMC about A$880 million in earnings.

Also, SMC attributed the increase in net income to savings arising from lower raw material costs.

The company's second quarter profit rose to P2.19 billion from the estimated P2.07 billion in the same quarter last year.

Analysts is projecting a full-year net profit growth of 7 percent to P9.67 billion.

During the conglomerate's stockholders meeting last May, SMC chair Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. expressed optimism on the company's growth opportunities, particularly in the food business.

"National Foods has opened a whole new set of opportunities for us, providing scale and huge possibilities for innovation and category extension," he noted.

Aside from National Foods, SMC also has interests in Australian juice maker Berri Ltd. and Lactos, a leading specialty cheese company in that country.

With strong brands and the technology to extend the shelf life of cheese products, Lactos is expected to provide further growth in that segment.

The company earlier said its overseas operations should deliver 40 percent of group revenue this year, up from 35 percent in 2005.

Aside from Australia, SMC also has operations in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

In the meantime, the company's snack foods business was officially launched last June 1 with the introduction of seven variants of E-Aji DipSnax, the first snack food with a dip in every pack. E-Aji DipSnax is manufactured by the San Miguel Branded Business. *With a report from Reuters*

Stocks close lower

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.99 percent lower as investors continued to sell down index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone, dealers said.

They said the market was also in correction mode as investors took profits from sharp gains made in recent weeks when they had taken positions in select stocks of companies that had been expected to report healthy earnings.

Volatile crude oil prices overnight also weighed on market sentiment.

The composite index ended down 23.16 points at 2,326.06. It touched a high of 2,348.86 and a low of 2,306.33. The broader all-shares index retreated 8.56 points to 1,436.61.

There were 45 losers and 45 gainers and 45 stocks unchanged with 4.08 billion shares traded worth P1.26 billion. *AFP*

Gov't debt reached ₱4T in May

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S OUTstanding debt breached the P4-trillion mark in end-May, increasing month-on-month by half-a-percentage point to P4.017 trillion.

A Department of Finance report showed that of the total debt, 60.2 percent was long-term; 23.6 percent, medium-term, and 16.2 percent, short-term.

The DOF report also showed that of the latest debt figure, loans from domestic creditors accounted for P2.17 trillion, while those from foreign lenders amounted to P1.845 trillion.

Officials said the government had been depending more on domestic rather foreign borrowings in plugging the budget deficit to minimize the country's exposure to foreign exchange volatility.

The domestic debt level in May was P18 billion lower than the month-ago figure.

The government borrows from the domestic market mainly through the issuance of treasury bills and bonds.

The latest foreign debt figure was 2.2 percent, or P39 billion, higher than the month-ago level. The increase was brought about largely by the depreciation of the peso against the US dollar in May.

The peso-dollar exchange rate stood at 51.75:$1 as of end-April, but hit 52.60:$1 in end-May.

The DOF said the national government's contingent liabilities hit P591.1 billion in end-May. This was 1.2 percent higher than the P580.94 recorded the previous month.

Contingent liabilities are debts of government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions that carry sovereign guarantee. They become part of national government debt once the GOCCs or GFIs default on payment of these loans.

Pre-need sales posted 25% increase in June

PRE-NEED SALES ROSE 25 PERCENT IN JUNE to P1.84 billion from P1.5 billion in the same month last year, a report prepared by the Securities and Exchange Commission showed.

This, however, can be attributed to the price increases implemented by certain pre-need firms. The number of plans sold went down 14 percent to 18,157 in June from year-ago's 21,129.

Of total sales in June , pension plans accounted for the bulk of P1.27 billion , up 40.8 percent from year-ago's P901.1 million.

Sales of life plans rose 5.5 percent to P218.7 million from P207.3 million, while education plans sales dropped by 3.4 percent to P352.7 million, from P365.1 million.

Despite the growth in June, pre-need sales in the first half were still lower by 20.2 percent at P9.7 billion than year-ago's P12.1 billion.

First semester sales of life plans dropped 44.3 percent, while education plans posted a 42-percent decline.

Industry sources said the market sentiment was mixed on certain companies being allowed to sell again after going through rehabilitation.

The SEC recently approved the application of embattled Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) to sell pre-need plans despite stiff opposition from a group of plan holders. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

The state of Philippine agriculture

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST AUG. 8, A REPORT ON THE state of Philippine agriculture was given to the Management Association of the Philippines-Agri-Business and Countryside Development Foundation (MAP-ABCD) by Dr. Renato Aquino. Taking selected facts from the Philippine Agriculture 2020 strategy, developed under then Science and Technology Minister Emil Javier, he concluded that the state of Philippine agriculture was dismal.

Our country has about 30 million hectares of land, 10 million of which are arable. Of these, 9 million hectares are accounted for by rice, corn and coconut. The table shows our crop yield compared to those of other countries in 2005.

As we see, our yield is lower than those of the other countries.

Metric tons/Hectare

RICE		CORN		COCONUT	
Vietnam	4.95	Thailand	3.63	Vietnam	63.95
Indonesia	4.57	Malaysia	3.00	Indonesia	61.05
Phil.	3.59	Phil.	2.08	Phil.	43.73

Also, we have very high post harvest loss rates of 33 percent in rice and 30 percent in corn.

Other statistics are not encouraging. Mechanization is required to improve agricultural productivity. A significant indicator is the amount of horsepower used per hectare (hp/ha). Korea, which was significantly behind us in agriculture in the 1960s, has 4.11 hp/ha. The less agriculturally advanced countries of Pakistan, India and Thailand have 1.02, 1.00 and 0.79, respectively. The Philippines is way behind at 0.52, or only 1/8 that of Korea.

Water availability is also crucial for agriculture. However, our irrigation efficiency is only 52 percent of the designed service area (out of 100 hectares, only 52 are actually irrigated).

To address these problems, research and development (R&D) plays a pivotal role. The World Bank has prescribed that, for developing countries, at least 1 percent of the Gross Value Added (GVA) should be allocated for R&D. Our agriculture R&D expenditure has been low at less than 1/3 of 1 percent of GVA.

Compounding all of these problems is our self-imposed average agriculture tariff rate of 8 percent, much lower than the WTO allowed maximum bound rate of 35 percent. Thankfully, the DA is now addressing this. Nevertheless, we are today flooded with unfairly subsidized imports which exceed our exports. This is in stark contrast to the 1990s and before, when we were a net exporter. The state of Philippine agriculture today is indeed dismal.

COMMENTARY

Inaccurate news

It was therefore with jubilation that farmers and fisherfolk welcomed newspaper reports last week that P4.9 billion for DA had been included in the proposed supplemental budget.

However, in the regular bimonthly meeting of the Alyansa Agrikultura with Agriculture Secretary Panganiban last Aug. 4, he said, "Absolutely no additional support for DA was proposed." This is ironic, since the legally mandated Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act provides a yearly allocation of P33 billion, more than double the average P15 billion DA budget in the last five years.

The supplemental budget submitted includes urban projects such as the P3.2 billion in subsidy for the MRT-3, while ignoring the legally required budget for agriculture. This also goes against a significant budget-related item in Alyansa Agrikultura's common agri-fishery agenda: "Government budget allocation must shift from urban to rural spending, thus significantly increasing rather than decreasing the DA annual budget".

This item was committed to by all the Presidential candidates when it was presented to them prior to the May 2004 elections. Many farmers and fisherfolk feel deceived when they see P3.2 billion for a Metro Manila project, and none for rural agriculture.

Recommendation

If funding urban projects is necessary, it can be argued that additional funding for agriculture is even more necessary.

When asked about budget details, Yolanda Doblon, director of the legislative budget research and management office, said: "The Senate-approved 2006 budget is at least P40 billion more than the new proposed budget submitted by the House of Representatives, even with the supplemental budget."

The recommendation is to transform into fact the "fictional" P4.9-billion DA allocation. This can be done through a budget realignment or an additional budget proposal, which will be P36 billion lower than the Senate-approved budget.

During the Aug. 4 meeting, Secretary Panganiban agreed to a transparent fund monitoring mechanism by the private sector. Accomplishing this will be a significant step in addressing the dismal state of Philippine agriculture today.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; For inquiries, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com.)

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 10, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	33	32	32.5	391,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53	52	53	1,120,500
China Banking Corp.	700	710	700	710	1,960
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	260,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	78.5	78.5	78	78.5	307,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38	39	37.5	38.5	298,500
Phil. Savings Bank	41	42	41	42	12,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	17	16.25	16.5	46,000
Security Bank Corp.	47.5	48.5	47.5	48.5	1,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	13,600
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	560,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30	29.5	30	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1610	1600	1610	920
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	200,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1925	1925	1920	1925	590
Ivantage Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,001,000
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42	43	42	43	31,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	43	43	42.5	43	270,000
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	34,600
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	965,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.1	8.9	9.1	8,831,000
Petron Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.2	2,319,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	3,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	13,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	20,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23.25	23	23.25	31,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32	31.5	31.5	348,900
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.75	843,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	71,100
San Miguel Corp. B	72.5	73.5	72.5	73.5	94,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	19	475,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	500,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,060,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	2,737,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	6,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.3	5	4.3	5	1,011,000
Phil Nat'l Const Corp.	3	3	3	3	2,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc .	4	4.7	4	4.7	69,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	40,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.42	0.42	183,120,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0825	0.0875	0.08	0.085	12,300,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	415	415	410	415	89,030
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	90,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	118,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.034	0.028	0.032	233,300,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.215	0.23	0.215	0.22	5,770,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	34,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	120,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3	3	2.85	2.9	58,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.08	1.08	1	1.02	101,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	1,849,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.25	4.15	4.25	1,394,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	101,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	122,000
Medco Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.18	0.13	0.18	70,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	8,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	330,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.15	0.12	0.14	95,300,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.12	0.17	0.11	0.14	232,030,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.15	0.135	0.135	3,720,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	13.75	13	13.25	6,741,200
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	1,039,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.3	0.3	5,750,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.16	59,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	8,490,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.049	0.06	0.046	0.05	105,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.34	14,111,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.11	700,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.125	0.125	0.105	0.105	2,060,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	20,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.007	153,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	25,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	240,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	240,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc .	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	770,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.52	1.54	1.48	1.5	24,076,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	2,920,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	770,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	6,760,000
SM Development Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	222,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.9	4,013,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.1	0.09	0.1	4,600,000
SERVICE MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	17	17	17	17	70,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.04	172,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.3	3,961,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1030	1015	1020	15,610
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.6	5,282,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1980	1980	1950	1970	167,400
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,150,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	55,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.05	0.044	0.046	14,500,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0575	0.0525	0.0575	26,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	107,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	320,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	219,100
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,265,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.36	970,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	10,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	950,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.52	70,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.04	2.12	2.04	2.12	258,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.5	2,430,400
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.95	4.15	3.8	4.1	4,907,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	3.9	4.1	3.9	4.1	3,235,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	118,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	8.2	7.7	8.1	1,755,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	55,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	16,790,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	37,650,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.027	0.025	0.026	1,007,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.031	0.029	0.031	488,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	936,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.35	4.55	4.25	4.55	12,367,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.35	4.6	4.35	4.6	6,904,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	71,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	550,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	400,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc .	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	210,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	100,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	12,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.32	1,265,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	13	14.25	12.5	13.75	742,500
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	102	103	101	103	25,510
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	20,000

CURRENCIES

August 11, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.777484	1.000000	51.4330
Japan	Yen	0.006740	0.008669	0.4459
United Kingdom	Pound	1.481029	1.904900	97.9747
Hongkong	Dollar	0.099976	0.128589	6.6137
Switzerland	Franc	0.634111	0.815594	41.9484
Canada	Dollar	0.694182	0.892857	45.9223
Singapore	Dollar	0.494362	0.635849	32.7036
Australia	Dollar	0.595545	0.765990	39.3972
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.062402	2.652661	136.4343
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207318	0.266652	13.7147
Brunei	Dollar	0.492796	0.633834	32.6000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020728	0.026660	1.3712
Uae	Dirham	0.211687	0.272272	14.0038
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.286200	66.1531
Argentina	Peso	0.253417	0.325945	16.7643
Brazil	Real	0.358783	0.461467	23.7346
Denmark	Kroner	0.134028	0.172387	8.8664
India	Rupee	0.016756	0.021552	1.1085
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212369	0.273149	14.0489
Mexico	New Peso	0.071631	0.092132	4.7386
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489816	0.630001	32.4028
Norway	Kroner	0.125875	0.161901	8.3271
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012905	0.016598	0.8537
South Africa	Rand	0.115662	0.148765	7.6514
Korea	Won	0.000810	0.001042	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.109140	0.140375	7.2200
Syria	Pound	0.014977	0.019264	0.9908
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023759	0.030559	1.5717
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000362	0.000466	0.0240

With ties said to be at an all-time high, China, RP make the most out of trade

By Ronnel W. Domingo

COMMERCE OFFICIALS FROM CHINA are drumming up greater trade between the mainland and the Philippines at a time when the "commercial and diplomatic (ties between the two countries) are at their best."

Data from the China Foreign Trade Center show that cargoes that had crossed the South China Sea reached a value of $17.57 billion in 2005—31.7 percent higher than the amount posted the previous year.

CFTC vice chair Chen Barong said that the Philippines continues to enjoy the upper hand in the bilateral trade.

He said last year's shipments to China were valued at a total of close to $13 billion, while cargoes from the mainland reached only $4.7 billion.

Still, Chen said 2005 saw a relative growth of volumes from China while deliveries from the Philippines slowed down.

"This means that bilateral trade are becoming healthier and more balanced," he said, adding that two-way trade was rapidly developing over the years.

Chen said his agency would invite Philippine firms to visit the 100th session of the China Export Commodities Fair in Guangzhou province.

RP loans from ODA fell by 5% to $10B in 2005

Loans have been declining steadily for 5 years

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES' OUTSTANDING loans in the form of official development assistance (ODA) further dropped by 5 percent to $10.2 billion (about P520 billion) last year, as the government's improving fiscal position reduced its need for borrowings.

Romulo Neri, director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the country's outstanding ODA loans had been on a steady decline in the five years leading to 2005.

Authorities expect ODA loans to continue to fall this year amid sustained cuts in the budget deficit.

According to the 14th ODA portfolio review conducted by the Neda, infrastructure projects accounted for the biggest share, or $6.6 billion, of the outstanding ODA loans as of end-2005.

Projects related to agriculture, natural resources and agrarian reform had a $1.8-billion share, while governance and institutional development got $22 million.

Social services- and community-development projects accounted for $1 billion of the outstanding loans, while trade and tourism projects had a $770-million share.

The country's biggest ODA source continues to be Japan, which provides its assistance through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. The Japanese government accounted for 60 percent, or $6.1 billion of the total ODA.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Aug. 8, 2006	Last Week Aug. 1, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.45149	1.44117
Managed Fund - Peso	1.60071	1.59434
Growth Fund - Peso	1.28163	1.28707
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2626	1.2556

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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MODEL	COLOR	YEAR	MILEAGE	PRICE
118i Sport	Sparkling Graphite	2005	6,000 kms	P1,750,000
120i	Sparkling Graphite	2005	10,000 kms	P1,680,000
120i Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	11,071 kms	P1,780,000
316i (E36)	Cosmos Black	1997	71,934 kms	P580,000
316i (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	20,427 kms	P1,100,000
316i (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	34,000 kms	P1,150,000
316i (E46)	Black Sapphire	2003	50,592 kms	P1,150,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	45,182 kms	P1,380,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	9,800 kms	P1,580,000
318i Executive (E46)	Orient Blue	2004	33,040 kms	P1,650,000
320i Executive (E90)	Titanium Silver	2006	6,736 kms	P2,380,000
520i Limousine	Oxford Green	2004	12,177 kms	P1,380,000
523i (E39)	Dunkel Blue	1997	82,145 kms	P1,100,000
523i Executive	Silver Grey	2006	2,624 kms	P4,360,000
525i Executive	Silver Grey	2004	17,463 kms	P3,600,000
530i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	1,683 kms	P4,921,000
X3 2.5i SAV	Mystic Blue	2005	22,254 kms	P2,850,000
X5 3.0d Limited Edition	Alpine White	2006	2,500 kms	P5,330,000

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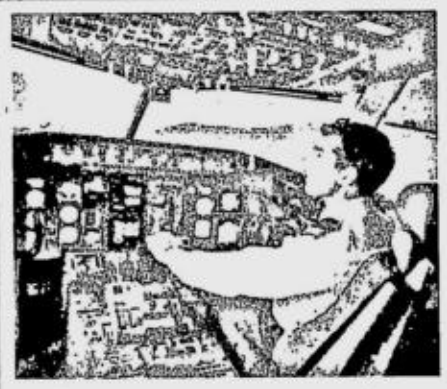

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INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2 MILLION PCS. OF 1 KILOGRAM PLASTIC CONTAINER

The **National Food Authority Region V** invites all interested parties to participate in the bidding for the purchase of 2.5 million pieces of 1 kilogram plastic container with the following specification:

SPECIFICATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
6.5 inches x 10.5 inches x .03 mm Poly Ethelene (PE)	Php 2,050,000.00 (Inclusive of VAT)

The following volume shall be delivered to the corresponding designated NFA Offices, to wit:

PROVINCE	QUANTITY (PCS.)	DELIVERY POINT
CAM SUR	375,000	NFA Palestina, Pili, Camarines Sur
MASBATE	2,000,000	NFA, Masbate City
ALBAY	125,000	NFA Pier Site, Legazpi City
TOTAL	2,500,000	

Offerors shall be required to post a bid bond equivalent to ten (10%) percent of the total amount based on his/her price offer. It shall be in the form of Cash, Manager's check or Cashier's check payable to NFA.

Bid documents such as Tender Form including terms and conditions shall be issued only to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable/non-transferrable fee of P500.00 to the RBAC Secretariat not later than August 18, 2006. For further details you may contact the RBAC Secretariat at telephone numbers (052) 480-7015/480-7933 & 820-0018.

The bidding will be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Regional Office, Pier Site, Legazpi City on the following schedule:

Pre-Bid Conference - 10:00 a.m. August 17, 2006
Bidding - 10:00 a.m. August 29, 2006

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such bids which in its judgment are most reasonable and advantageous to NFA. The decision of the Committee as confirmed by the Regional Director shall be deemed final.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug. 11 & 18, 2006)

MANILA GAS CORPORATION (MGC)
INTER-ISLAND GAS SERVICES INC. (IIGSI)

INVITATION FOR THE NEGOTIATED SALE

MGC/IIGSI offers for negotiated sale its Paco North and Cebu properties on August 23, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the NDC Audio Visual Room, Penthouse, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may secure the Guidelines, Terms and Conditions for the Negotiated Sale starting August 10, 2006 from MGC c/o Mr. Efren Mancia, 7/F NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. No. 8404838 loc. 223 & 313 / Fax No. 8404862 and IIGSI c/o Mr. Charlie Villegas, 3215 District 5 Sangi, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City. Tel. No. 032-3418874.

(PDI – August 11, 12 & 13, 2006)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **WISTRON INFOCOMM (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Export Producer of Global Positioning System (GPS) Electronic Device** on a **Pioneer** Status with capacity of **2,080,000 pieces per year** with project/plant site located at **No. 4 Rizal Highway corner Aim High Avenue, SBIP, Phase 1, Subic Bay Freeport Zone**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Aug. 11, 2006)

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Announcement

In keeping with Inter.net's commitments to continually evolve our products and resources, we are announcing that we will stop marketing immediately our dial-up access products on these following areas namely: Baguio City, Naga City, Laguna and Batangas. All dial-up access products sold prior to this announcement on these areas will be valid for use up to August 31, 2006.

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Virginia M. Sanchez has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs as Per Doc # 274; Page # 56; Book # 1 Series of 2006 by Atty. Joseph Erwin J. Gregorio Notary Public for and in the City of Pasig.
(PDI – Aug. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2006)

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Transco on A13; and UCPB on page A19

OBITUARIES

In Memory of Our Beloved

Atty. Razon Tumbocon Haresco

On her 5th Death Anniversary
August 11, 2006 (Friday)

Her children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join the family in prayer for the eternal repose of Nanay Zoning's soul.

Holy Masses will be offered by her friends in the Clergy at the following Churches/Chapels:

CHURCH	CELEBRATED BY:	ADDRESS	TIME
Sto. Domingo Cathedral	Most Rev. CAMILO GREGORIO, D.D. Bishop of Batanes	Basco, Batanes	6:00 pm
San Sebastian Cathedral	Most Rev. FLORENTINO CINENSE, DD Bishop of Tarlac	Tarlac City	7:00 am
Monastery of Saint Clare	Most. Rev. EMILIO Z. MARQUEZ, DD Bishop of Lucena	Sariaya, Quezon	9:00 am
Christ the King Parish Church	Most Rev. RAUL Q. MARTIREZ, DD Bishop Emeritus of San Jose de Antique	Green Meadows Quezon City	7:00 am
Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage Shrine	Most Rev. GABRIEL V. REYES, DD Bishop of Antipolo	Antipolo City	7:00 am
Saint Clare Monastery	Most Rev. RAMON B. VILLENA, DD Bishop of Buyombong	Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya	3:00 pm
St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral	Rev. Msgr. ELMER I. MANGALINAO Vicar General – Diocese of Cabanatuan	Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija	6:00 am
Colegio de Sta. Rosa Chapel	Rev. Fr. JUANITO S. FIGURA Secretary General-Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines	Estrella Street Makati City	5:30 pm
Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP Chapel)	Rev. Fr. OSCAR ALUNDAY, SVD Executive Secretary (CBCP-ECBA)	Intramuros, Manila	11:30 am
Poor Clare Monastery Chapel	Rev. Fr. ARTURO DAQUILANEA, OFM	Cabid-an, Sorsogon, Sorsogon	3:00 pm
Archangels Chapel Sto. Niño Seminary	Rev. Fr. JOSE GUALBERTO I. VILLASIS	Numancia, Aklan	6:00 am
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church	Rev. Fr. ELSO N. NALANGAN	Numancia, Aklan	6:00 am
Archangels Chapel Sto. Niño Seminary	Rev. Fr. VAL N. NALANGAN	Numancia, Aklan	8:00 am
Nuestra Sñra de Salvacion	Rev. Fr. VICTOR I. SALIDO	Katibyugan, Dongon West Numancia, Aklan	5:00 pm
Archangels Chapel Sto. Niño Seminary	Rev. Fr. JOHN JEROME T. VELARDE	Numancia, Aklan	6:00 am
Missionaries of Charity Chapel	Rev. Fr. PAUL ANDREW S. SAYSON V	Polo, New Washington, Aklan	6:00 am
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church	Rev. Fr. CESAR V. ECHEGARAY	Numancia, Aklan	5:00 pm
San Roque Chapel	Rev. Fr. JESSE T. GUILLERGAN, Jr.	Camanci Norte Numancia, Aklan	5:00 pm
Archangels Chapel Sto. Niño Seminary	Rev. Fr. JESSE R. PANDONGON	Numancia, Aklan	7:00 am
San Roque Chapel	Rev. Fr. VINCENT P. CAJILIG	Laguinbanua West Numancia, Aklan	5:00 pm
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish	Rev. Fr. ZALDY B. ZARANDIN	Libacao, Aklan	5:30 am
St. Isidore the Farmer Parish Church	Rev. Fr. MARLON F. RASGO	Nabas, Aklan	4:00 pm
St. Isidore the Farmer Parish Church	Rev. Fr. JARVIN T. AGUELO	Nabas, Aklan	6:00 am
Holy Child Parish Church	Rev. Fr. JOGIE ESMERALDA	Altavas, Aklan	6:00 am
St. Jude Parish Church	Rev. Fr. ANGELO B. CONSEMINO	Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan	6:00 am
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church	Rev. Fr. TITO S. GELITO	Malay, Aklan	6:00 am
St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church	Rev. Fr. GEOFFREY G. JIMEMEZ	Ibajay, Aklan	6:30 am
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Church	Rev. Fr. TUDD S. BELANDRES	Madalag, Aklan	6:00 am

In Loving Memory
On the 10th Death Anniversary of
AMBROSIO BIBBY PADILLA
On August 11, 2006

The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at 12:00 NN, ALPADI, Antipolo and at the following churches:

Sacred Heart Parish, *Kamuning*	5:15 am
Basilica San Martin Tours, *Taal, Batangas*	5:30 am
Nuestra Señora De Gracia Parish, *Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City*	6:00 am
Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish, *Katipunan Rd., Quezon City*	6:00 am
Immaculate Conception Parish, *Antipolo Cathedral*	6:00 am
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, *Makati City*	6:00 am
St. John Mary Vianney Parish, *Antipolo City*	6:00 am
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, *Ayala Alabang Village*	6:00 am
San Agustin Chapel, *Dasmariñas Village, Makati City*	6:45 am
Christ the King Parish, *Green Meadows, Quezon City*	7:00 am
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Parish, *Magallanes*	7:00 am
Mary the Queen Parish, *Greenhills*	7:00 am
Sta. Teresita Church, Kanlaon, *Quezon City*	7:00 am
Sto. Domingo Church, *Quezon Blvd, Quezon City*	7:00 am
Our Lady of Loudes Church, *Kanlaon, Quezon City*	7:00 am
Saints Peter and Paul Parish	7:00 am
Sanctuario De San Jose, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	7:15 am
St. John Bosco Parish, *Makati City*	7:30 am
Sancta Maria Stella Orientis Oratory	7:45 am
Blessed Sacrament Fathers & Brothers, (Sta. Cruz Church), *Manila*	8:00 am
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, *Quiapo, Manila*	8:00 am
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral – Basilica	12:10 pm
Sanctuario De San Antonio Parish, *Forbes Park*	12:15 pm
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of EDSA), *Quezon City*	12:15 pm
San Agustin Church, *Intramuros Manila*	5:30 pm
Mount Carmel Shrine, *Quezon City*	6:00 pm
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *(U.P.) Diliman, Quezon City*	6:00 pm
Chapel of St. Thomas More, *(Ateneo-Rockwell)*	6:05 pm
St John the Baptist Parish, *Pinaglabanan St., San Juan*	6:15 pm
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, *Bel-Air II, Makati City*	6:30 pm
Parish of St. James the Great, *Ayala Alabang Village*	6:30 pm

His children request relatives, friends and pious readers to please remember him in their prayers.

"The Lord will bless your going out and your coming in, now and forevermore."
Psalm 121:8

ROLANDO H. BRAGADO

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 9, 2006.

His loving wife **Amor**; children **Rochelle** and **Homer**, **Peter** and **Cathy**, **Michelle** and **Joseph**, and **Mio**; grandchildren, sisters **Rose**, **Neddie**, and **Erlie** give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 13, 2006 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Chapel 1-A.

MARY MEDIATRIX MEDICAL CENTER, INC.

mourns the death of its

President and Chief Executive Officer

VICENTE LAT MAGSINO, SR., M.D., FPCP, FPCC

***Founder,* Mary Mediatrix Medical Center Foundation**
***Founder,* Lipa City Medical Society**

July 19, 1928 – August 10, 2006

His colleagues at the MMMC, INC.
join his family in requesting the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence
33 Antipolo Del Norte, Lipa City.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, August 13, 2006
11:00 a.m. at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Mary Mediatrix Medical Center Foundation (The Good Samaritan).

JUSTINA CANO-NABONG

of San Vicente, Macabebe, Pampanga
has peacefully joined her Creator on August 9, 2006
at the age of 63.

She is survived by her loving husband **Arcadio**; caring children **Portia Marie** and **Homer Marie**; son-in-law **Roberto**; grandchildren **Haila Monique, Marion Fitz, Reilly Noelle** and **Gian Mitchel**; mother **Constancia**; brother **Eustacio**; sister-in-law **Leonica**; nieces **Laurie Gayle** and **Jenny Ruth** and nephew **James Russel**; other relatives and friends.

All her loved ones request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Necrological service follows the 5:00 p.m. Mass at the Chapel tomorrow, August 12, 2006.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

CARIDAD VILLANUEVA ALCANTARA

The Family requests the pious reader to join in the prayers of Commemoration in the following churches on the 12th August 2006

Vigan Cathedral Vigan City	6:00 am	St. Isidore the Farmer Lucena City	6:00 am
Vigan Camposanto Vigan City	6:30 am	LUDH Chapel Isabang Lucena City	4:00 pm
Narvacan Church Ilocos Sur	6:00 am	St. Dominic Church San Carlos City Pangasinan	7:00 am
St. Ferdinan Cathedral Lucena	6:00 am	St. Rafael Parish Dalahican Lucena City	4:00 pm
St. John Cathedral Dagupan City	7:00 am	St. James the Elderly Bangued Abra	6:00 am
St. Jude Thaddeus Lucena City	6:15 am	San Lorenzo Ruiz Shrine Bangued Abra	6:00 am
Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 pm	Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag Pangasinan on August 11, 2006	7:00 am

Laslasong West Chapel, Sta. Maria Ilocos Sur 2:30 pm

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Death Notice

ELISEO P. PAMBID
Born: Dec. 10, 1933 Died: Aug. 6, 2006
At the age of 72
Body lies in state at Eusebio Funeral Homes, 172 Gen. Luna St., Malabon.
Interment will be on Aug. 13, 2006 at the place to be announced later.

VICENTE LAT MAGSINO, SR., M.D., FPCP, FPCC

"Enteng"

July 19, 1928 – August 10, 2006

of Lipa City, Batangas

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 10, 2006 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Lillian**; children **Bobby** and **Weng**, **Anthony** (†), **Issa** and **Tony**, **Dunol** and **Beth**, **Loy** and **Jimmy**, **Tet** and **Bing**, **Je** and **Freda**, **Mean** and **Joey**; grandchildren **Karen**, **Lian**, **Arvin**, **Noel**, **Tad**, **Joseph**, **Bernadette**, **Jasmine**, **Megan**, **Jedrick**, **Jamie**, **Christopher**, **Janna** and **Pia**; brother retired **Justice Celso** and wife **Letty**; cousins, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence at 33 Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, August 13, 2006, 11:00 a.m. at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Mary Mediatrix Medical Center Foundation (The Good Samaritan).

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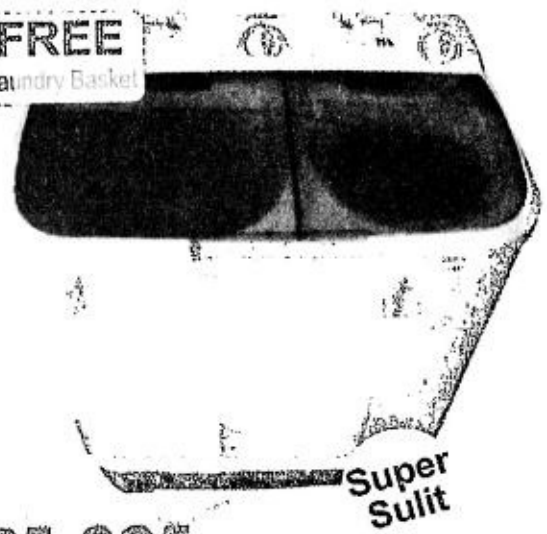

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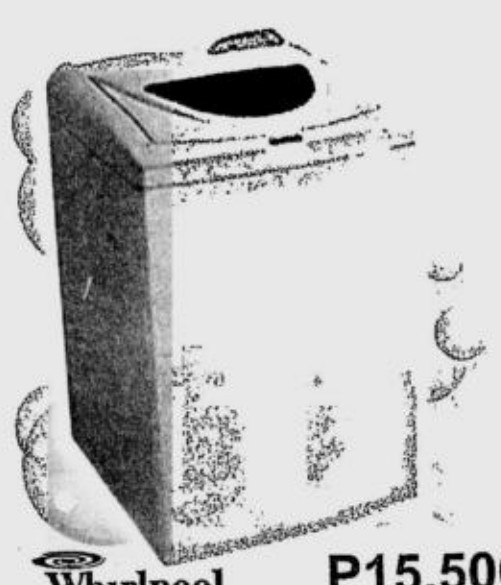

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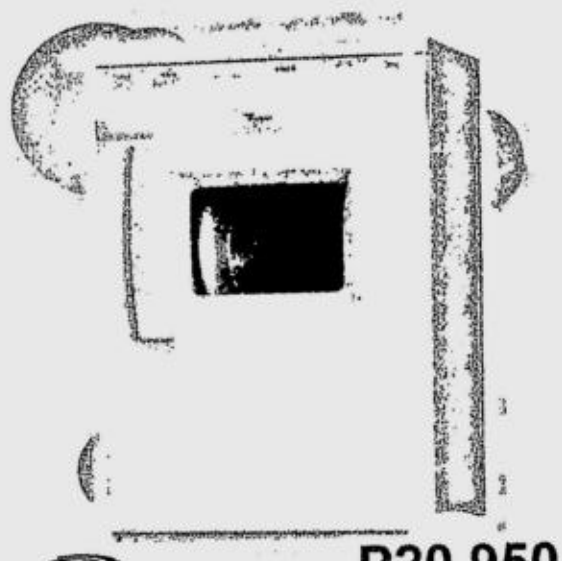

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Cainta 2 681-5301to 05	Pasig 656-6643/47
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Jaka 829-2686/87	Showroom 631-5188
Kalookan 363-3346/5338	LCC-Naga (054) 473-6003
Las Piñas 872-0576/77	Pacific Mall -Legazpi (052) 480-6266
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WWT24H
10.5 kg
Fully Automatic Washer with Hotwash

WWD22
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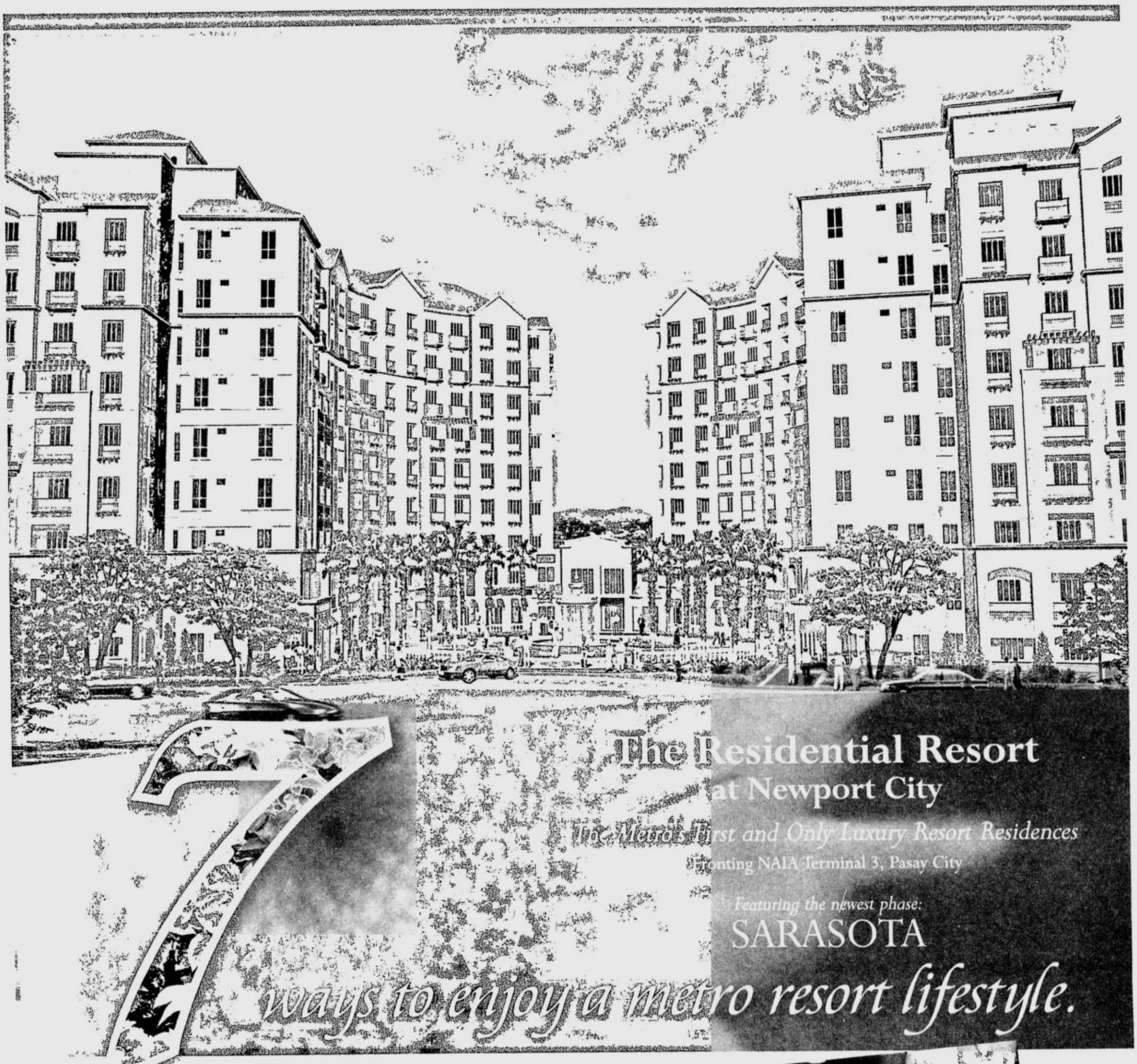

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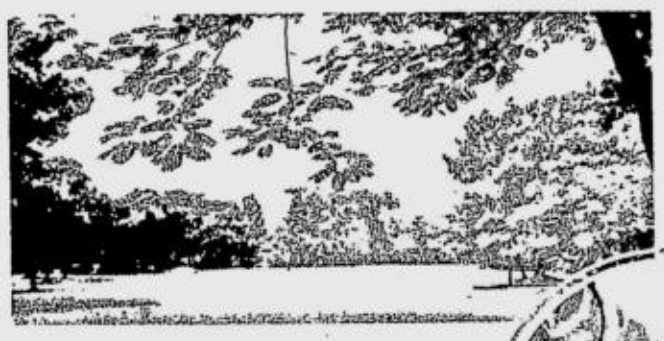

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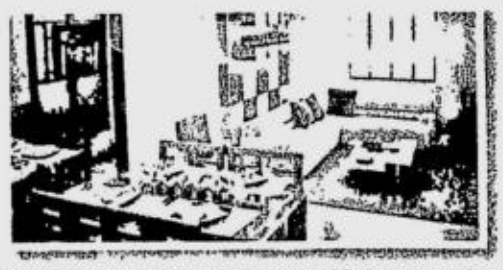

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Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Rejection served as his inspiration

THE LIFE-SIZE poster of Joey de Leon that made the Molecules shirt a known brand.

NELSON Yau learned the craft of marketing at an early age. PHOTOS BY RHANDY CORDEZ

By Alexa H. Bacay

NELSON YAU MAY BE CHINESE, but one of the most important values he has taken to heart is the Filipino value of "*utang na loob*."

In 1990, when he decided to set up his own garments business, his father endorsed him to a family friend who owned a department store in the province. His father, Yau Beng Liung, has been involved in the textile business since Nelson was young. But Nelson, a newbie, with an unknown brand, had to rough it out to establish his Molecules name.

So hopeful Nelson went to his father's friend to present him with a stack of samples.

"Before issuing the PO, he asked me, 'What brand?'

I said, 'Molecules,'" Nelson tells the INQUIRER.

But instead of welcoming arms, his samples were thrown back at him and told, "*Hindi ka pala sikat e. Tsaka na yan pag sikat ka na.* (You're not popular. Come back when you're known.)"

Nelson made that encounter the inspiration to get his brand into the market. His father told him "Don't be afraid. Be afraid if you are lazy but if you are not, you will reach places."

Nelson had 12 people helped him in his venture. One of them was Benito Gan who gave him half a million pesos to help set up Molecules. Two other malls in the province agreed to carry his brand. Business went well until 1992 when sales dwindled.

His initial capital of P2 million disappeared. He lost another P8 million for a total of P10 million in losses.

"*Doon naubos ang luha ko.*(I ran out of tears.) You will start blaming God."

Then actor-comedian Joey de Leon entered into the picture. Nelson calls him his "second god." He and his wife Cherry went to the studio airing the noontime show Eat Bulaga, and armed only with guts, approached De Leon to ask him to endorse Molecules shirts.

Surprisingly, De Leon agreed to carry his brand after making sure that Molecules was new and unknown. Nelson remembered De Leon interrogating him like a lawyer, "*Totoo bang bago ka lang?* (Is it true you're a new brand?)" Then upon agreeing to endorse his brand, "*Sige. Kasi bago ka, tutulungan kita. Pero bukas pictorial na ha. Pag hindi tayo nagpictorial bukas, wala na yung* deal *natin*. (I agree to help because you are new. But we have to do the pictorial tomorrow, or else the deal is off)"

After that, sales of Molecules shirts skyrocketed from P300,000 to 400,000 a month to P3 million to 4 million. All because of Joey's life-size stand in SM prominently wearing a Molecules shirt.

Nelson also made sure to associate his brand with the more popular ones. He says that while newcomers were afraid to display their garments beside a popular brand in the malls, Nelson proudly set his wares beside this.

He would tell people he did this to get the popular brand's market.

"The fabric and print are of the same quality. Only the brand is different. During that time, the competitor was selling at P160—I was selling at P149. I became the alternative," explains Nelson.

"In the garment business, we should meet them head on," Nelson explains. "Whatever they have, I should also have. But you have to consider the price."

His product stands out be-

REJECTION/ B2-2

Philips completes shift to healthcare, lifestyle

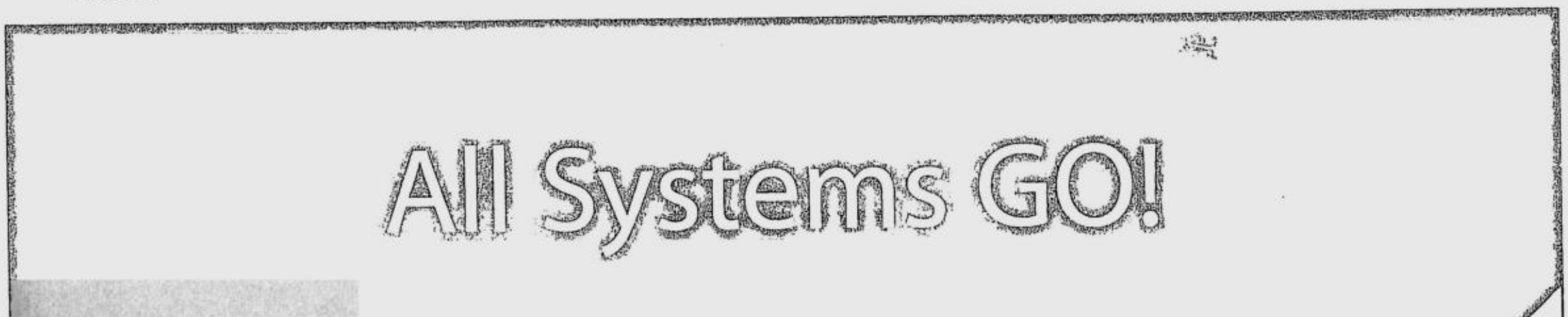
FOLLOWING THE divestment of an 80.1 percent majority share in its Semiconductor unit, Royal Philips Electronics has completed its transformation from a cyclical technology firm to a healthcare and lifestyle company built around a strong brand holding the promise of "sense and simplicity."

As a result, Royal Philips Electronics will now be known as Royal Philips.

Philips' Semiconductors is a leading supplier of silicon system solutions for mobile communications, consumer electronics, digital displays, contact-less payment and connectivity, and in-car entertainment and networking, with about 37,000 employees worldwide. It posted sales of some $5.89 billion in 2005.

Gerald Kleisterlee, the company president and CEO, announced yesterday that his firm had signed an agreement with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR), Silver Lake Partners and AlpInvest Partners NV "through which the consortium will acquire an 80.1 percent stake in Philips' Semiconduc-

PHILIPS/ B2-3



Rejection ...

From page B2-1

cause he says he doesn't compromise the quality. He says he doesn't produce stocks using cheaper materials, as some are won't to do, during mall sales.

"My mark-ups suffered but I'm willing to sacrifice my mark up, not my quality," he says.

Four years after Molecules, Nelson came up with a ladies' line, which he called Particles. At about the same time, the person, who turned him down when he was just starting, called Nelson up and asked about carrying the Molecules brand in his mall.

Nelson declined as two stores in the area were already carrying his brand. He offered the Particles shirts instead. But being a new brand, the department store owner once again declined.

"If you want me to support you, you have to support me," Nelson recalls telling the store owner. No business transpired between them until in 1998 when one of the malls in the area had problems and Nelson had to pull out. Nelson finally agreed to have this person's mall carry his brand but with terms that he be given a consolidated area for Molecules and Particles, with three salespeople and a lower mark up. His father's friend agreed.

He earned the reputation of being a tough negotiator but he says it was not about his being tough but it was an issue of who helped him at the start.

"You can never repay the one who helped you at the start," he says. This is why he values "*utang na loob*."

He shares that his father's life was his inspiration. While growing up, he was always by his father's side, assisting in the office and learning valuable business lessons.

"As early as my elementary years, we were already obliged to help in the textile store of my father every summer vacation," Nelson says.

He and his siblings did chores like depositing money in the bank, writing out receipts and checking the stocks that came in. They also cleaned the office and washed the dishes after eating.

Among the four siblings, Nelson was the only one who got interested in what his father was doing. He would stay beside his father's table ready to give their clients whatever they need.

His father told him to watch and learn, and that if he goes to the office, he will earn. So Nelson learned and earned at a very young age

He used his earnings to buy stickers, yoyos, masks, and the rave of kids then, toy cards also called 'tex.'

After 16 years, his Molecules brand still thrives. It is because Nelson Yau knows how to deal with people and his business well.

Even the rich go back to basics

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TEN YEARS AGO, YOU could spot a rich person right away—from the Rolex, Omega or Cartier watch she sported; to the tailored, almost formal clothes she wore, topped with a well-coiffed hair.

But times have changed, notes Peter Hammond, Esprit Asia's regional director for wholesale.

Rich people now have different wants, ranging from unknown brands of watch to classic casual garbs.

"The top end is coming down to the middle market," Hammond said during a recent visit to Manila for the opening of the new Esprit clothing shop in Glorieta in Makati. "The rich do not want to stand out. They become understated."

At the same time, economically empowered consumers have increased, as seen from the increase in the sales of some high-end brands. But these customers do not just go for the price tag. They satisfy their other requirements.

Hammond noted that, from the tailored, formal attire worn by the affluent of the past, this market segment has moved to smart casuals because they have become more environment conscious and have shed off their leather and furs.

RICHIE Santos of Cinderella Marketing Corp. and Peter Hammond

In general, he said, the world has preferred a more comfortable look.

This is the market Esprit has been gearing since it reengineered the brand a few years ago after suffering huge losses and an almost low-end image.

What the German-based firm did was segmentize the market, coming up with 12 collections targeting loyal and new Esprit customers.

The new Philippine store carries 11 of these collections, which include women casual or its sporty line; women collection gearing for working women; men casual; men collection; Esprit kids and eds youth. Hammond said all designs come from Europe, but the materials and sizes are adjusted to Asian requirements.

Esprit distributes its clothes via two schemes worldwide—wholesaling to partners or directly owning the shops.

Hammond said 80 percent of its sales are generated by partners, including the one in the Philippines—the Cinderella Marketing Corp.

Esprit was founded in 1968 by a couple, Susie and Doug Tompkins, who travelled around California in a station wagon filled with homemade clothes.

As the Esprit headquarters established itself in Dusseldorf and Hong Kong in the 1970s via a franchise, the founding company, Esprit USA, became an entirely self-sufficient company.

Eventually, what began in Germany as a sportswear maker for women, using the name Esprit de Corps, eventually bought out the American rights and reengineered the brand.

In the past, Esprit clothes in Europe were found in the lower-end shops like H&M. But today, Hammond said Esprit is lumped in the same category as Mango and Zara.

"In the lower end you get volumes but not profits," Hammond explained. "So brands go to the middle market."

While it is this market that Esprit focused on, they discovered that the high-end now look to middle market brands that carry the quality and designs they want.

"We are not a fashion edge product," he said. "We need base products."

Esprit has 2,800 franchisees in Europe and gets about 600 applications a year. Like most international brands, it has expanded substantially in China with 680 points of sale locations.

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CHOOSING THE RIGHT MODE OF INvestment has always been the first step toward personal financial success.

A new breed of investors are tapping the franchise system for investment.

"Franchising, though relatively young when compared to other modes of investment, is a highly rewarding venture. One gets to enjoy proven viability and a tested system of operation and management without having to undergo a trial and error period that comes with establishing new businesses," states Francis Medina, franchise manager of Philippine Seven Corp., owner of the 7-11 convenience store chain.

Philseven, which offered its convenience store chain for franchising in 1998, notes a phenomenal rise in applications for franchising license, reaching a total 104 franchise stores in 2006 to beef the 175 company-owned outlets nationwide.

Medina says 7-Eleven's success in franchising depends on a "two-way street," wherein novice businessmen get a chance to cash in on the established success of a franchised store, while the company gets to enjoy a fresh infusion of passion and motivation from the investors.

Medina also stresses that success in the franchise business also depends on the support that the parent company is willing to provide new franchisees.

This support is translated into training and infrastructure systems that are integral to the success and growth of the business, ensuring the continuity of operations while lending the strength and experience of the parent company to its new franchisees.

With 7-Eleven, incoming investors experience a unique pre-qualification evaluation and training regime even before they are awarded their franchise. The evaluations help identify investors that are compatible with the business ideals of the company, while the training transfers knowledge and proven techniques that will ensure the viability of the franchise store.

Business infrastructures such as warehousing, delivery of products and POS systems are among the many supports that Philippine Seven Corp. extends to its franchisees. The measures help ensure prompt product delivery, while keeping the store well stocked with convenience items popular with the public.

Current reports show franchise investments in the country are on the rise with more and more Filipinos recognizing the opportunities offered by the business. A study also noted that as much as 95 percent of franchise businesses succeed, as the companies that have been offering franchise system become more adept in building their respective businesses and markets.

For inquiries, call 726-9968, 0920-9508651.

It pays to be a snitch

TAX-FILES

By Fidela T. Isip-Reyes
and Ma. Fides A. Balili
SGV & Co.

NOBODY LIKES A SNITCH. WHETHER at home, work or school, we scorn the guy who runs off and tells the authorities how we spent our time engaging in prohibited activities while they were away.

As they say, while the cat is away, the mouse will play. And nobody likes the goody-goody mouse who tells on his fellow mouse's bad behavior.

So what's a cat to do? Simple.

Knowing the universal truth that money makes the world go round, it just has to pay for the information that it wants, and the mouse (the rat?) will start talking.

Armed with this basic knowledge of human behavior, this is exactly what the government has done.

For valuable information instrumental to the recovery of revenues due the government, the BIR is willing to pay, by way of informer's reward, 10 percent of the total amount recovered but not exceeding P1 million.

For information leading to the discovery and seizure of smuggled goods, the reward is 10 percent of the fair market value of the smuggled or confiscated goods, again not exceeding P1 million.

Try to beat an incentive like that.

But before you start ratting on your neighbors with nothing more than unsubstantiated accusations, these are the conditions to getting the informer's reward:

(1) You cannot be an internal revenue or customs official or employee, or other public official or employee, or relative of such official or employee within the sixth degree of consanguinity.

This covers parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, first cousins and second cousins of internal revenue and customs officials and employees or other public officials.

Moreover, all public officials, whether incumbent or retired, who acquired the information in the course of the performance of their duties during their incumbency, are prohibited from claiming informer's reward.

Obviously, you do not need to be rewarded for doing your job. Including the relatives within the prohibition ensures that there will be no indirect violation of this condition.

(2) The information must be voluntarily given. So if you were subpoenaed to testify before the court, then you are not entitled to an informer's reward.

(3) The information must be in writing and under oath and it must be definite. It cannot be based on mere surmises and conjectures; it must be based on hard facts.

(4) The information must not yet be in the possession of the BIR.

(5) The information must not refer to a case already pending or previously investigated or examined by the BIR or the Department of Finance.

(6) The information given must be instrumental in the discovery of a violation of internal revenue laws and in the recovery of taxes which otherwise would not have been effected. The payment of deficiency tax must be the direct, logical and necessary consequence of the information given.

(7) The payment of informer's reward is conditioned upon the payment and collection of unpaid or deficiency taxes. An informer is entitled by way of reward only to a percentage of the taxes actually assessed and collected. Obviously, if nothing is collected, you cannot demand for the reward. Should there be a pending litigation, you must await the results of the litigation and actual payment to the BIR.

(8) The informer's reward shall be subject to income tax, collected as a final withholding tax at the rate of 10 percent. Prior to the Tax Code of 1997, the informer's reward was actually tax-free, but 10 percent is still a giveaway compared to the 32 percent highest personal income tax bracket.

Recently, the informer's reward has even been extended, under the same conditions, to consumers who report to the BIR the name and address of the professional/business/commercial establishment, which did not issue a receipt.

So if you are aware of any violation or circumvention of our tax laws and are confident that you and/or your information comply with the requirements and conditions, you simply go to the BIR and file an affidavit (to be recorded as Confidential Information No. X) denouncing a certain taxpayer for nonpayment of correct tax liabilities, e.g., unreported income, excessive claims of deductions, nonpayment of DST, nonremittance of withholding taxes, to name a few.

On the basis of the confidential information, the BIR will then issue Letters of Authority to investigate the tax liabilities of that taxpayer.

If unpaid taxes are actually collected on the basis of the information you gave, then you may claim the informer's reward.

Ideally, fulfilling your duties as a citizen is something the government should be able to expect. But if in fulfilling your duty you are rewarded as well, then that's just one more reason to do the right thing.

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Rave Reviews about the past Achievers & Leaders Seminar

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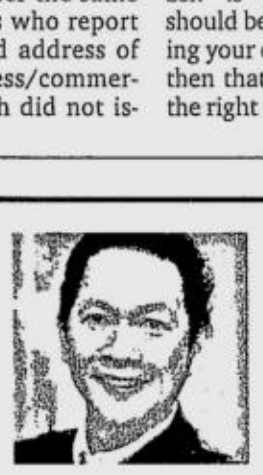
"Very inspiring!" - Eva Calaguas, Ericsson Telecoms, Inc.

"Excellent! Inspiring and very relevant in everyday life." - Ana Estabillo, Heidelberg Philippines



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Weapons of mass attraction fired

By Nini Valera

GMA 7 UNLEASHED WHAT IT called "weapons of mass attraction" during a trade show at Every Nation at the Fort last week.

These weapons—creative services to advertise brands and products in GMA 7 shows and radio programs and commercial vehicles, including point-of-purchase venues—are being offered by the network as an opportunity for clients to tap into GMA 7's resources of talent, technology and media outlets. The network is offering 15 platforms including Talent Center, Records, GMA 7, QTV.

For example, a client can go to GMA Records for their jingle requirements, and to the network's Talent Center for the services of a GMA artist to interpret the jingle. A 30-second or 60-second jingle could even be blown up into a full song (three minutes) and be included in the play list of GMA's radio programs.

Here's another example: A brand's logo or the product itself can appear in any scene of a GMA show.

Product usage can also be woven into the screenplay of any movies produced by GMA Films or any of the station's top-rating primetime shows.

New technology available to GMA 7 could also deliver advertising messages to cell phones, or advertise a product in malls, or along Edsa, through TV screens that run advertising material.

MECKOY QUIOGUE
ROMY HOMILLADA

The list goes on to include licensing of characters of the network's primetime shows, like "Mulawin," for premium item giveaways.

The transformation of GMA 7 from a broadcasting network to what might now seem to be a full-service creative advertising agency began during a management meeting two years ago, according to Meckoy Quiogue, president and chief operating officer of GMA Marketing.

Quiogue recalled: "I said, 'you guys don't realize how big we are. We have so much to offer. It's like we can now go to the client and say, 'give us your money and we'll do these things for you.' They don't have to give their money to anybody else because we can do so many things for them'."

The idea came up again last December. Launching it this month was a strategic decision "to be able to tap into the heavy spending of advertisers during the last quarter."

Rival network ABS-CBN had a similar idea, according to Quiogue.

"Unlike us, they offered just mainstream media, ABS-CBN, radio, regional, cable," he said. "We talked about licensing, advertising, concerts, events. So this is a more comprehensive package that we're offering."

This development has unavoidably raised concern in the advertising industry. The Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies—Philippines now wants to discuss how far a network could go in offering services, including creative material, directly to clients.

But Quiogue said that the network had not actively solicited creative work from clients, even if the present reality is that more and more clients would now come to the network for their communications requirement.

"A client would come to us and say we have P30 million and ask us what we could do with it," Quiogue explained. "It's no longer about spots and packages. It's about what creative (materials) you can do, how they can get these materials into our programs, what these can do for their brand."

This had given rise to what Quiogue called the quasi commercial—a station produced TV material that is based on copy points supplied by clients.

"But it's still a pitch," he added. "The client would brief us. Usually, they would call both ABS-CBN and GMA 7. So *pagandahan kami ng* package."

GMA 7 has set up its own creative group composed of people from creative ad agencies. This group, he said, could fulfill creative requirements of a client.

"But we still don't create advertising. What we do is create materials based on the ad campaign," said Quiogue.

The advantages in going to GMA 7 for advertising requirements are seemingly endless. For example, a jingle produced by GMA Records and recorded by a talent of its Artist Center could be included in the play list of GMA 7 radio stations.

Production cost for creative materials for a quasi commercial or a jingle also come cheaper than ad agency prices.

"We don't make money on production. But there is an advantage to us—that we'd be the only station using the material. That's a condition. We won't allow another channel to use our materials.

"But I have to emphasize that we never proactively chase clients. All the quasi commercials we've done were instigated by clients."

Philips...

From page B2-1

tors business, with Philips retaining a 19.9 percent stake..."

The transaction, Kleisterlee said, will put the enterprise value for Philips' Semiconductors business at approximately $10.64 billion consisting of $4.35 billion purchasing price, $5.12 billion for debt and other liabilities and $1.15 billion for Philips' remaining stake. The deal, which would give Philips an estimated cash proceeds of $8.19 billion, is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2006 subject to closing conditions, including governmental and regulatory approvals.

"With this transaction, we have now practically completed our shift towards more stable, cash generative businesses and away from the earnings volatility associated with cyclical industries like Components and Semiconductors, a journey we started in 2002," said Kleisterlee.

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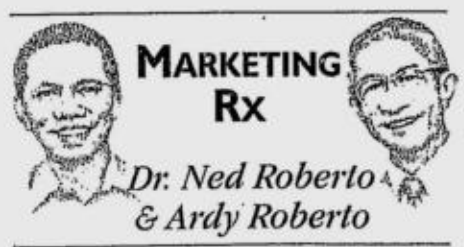
BUSINESS Friday

Let the consumer define your product category

Q: Here's our situation. We're planning to launch our own version of a canned green tea drink like C2. One of the questions raised during our recent marketing committee meeting was: "Which product category does our new green tea drink belong to?"

During this meeting where I chaired as marketing VP, I was surprised at how this simple question divided the committee members who intensely debated about it. The issued remained unresolved.

One group said we're obviously in the tea drink category, and this is not a matter of just color or packaging. But our sales group argued that if we expect to effectively compete against C2, we should be in the soft drinks category. Sales informed us that in supermarkets, C2 occupies the same shelves of Coca-Cola and other soft drinks.



So, what's the right answer?

A: Just as the question is simple, so is the answer: Source it from the consumer. Ask the consumer. After all, if your consumer doesn't find your product in the category shelf where she expects to find it, she'll just assume that you're out of stock and she'll just buy another. You were clearly wrong in placing it in another category shelf.

That sounds simple enough. In most cases, why the debate remains and continues comes from what one marketer friend of ours narrated about what happened when he did what we advised.

He asked consumers: "What kind of a product is this for you? Under what product category will you put it?" When he asked consumers this question, he told us none of them knew. Consumers didn't know.

We then realized that we gave an incomplete answer. The trouble obviously is this: Marketers who are not experienced market research users or are more "market-driving" than "market-driven" in their marketing thinking don't know how to ask consumers the right question to get the correct answer.

As we are won't to say: "Wrong question, wrong answer." In this case, "wrong question, no answer."

Let the consumer define your category

The right question to ask the consumer is not a direct one. It's an indirect question: "If you want to buy this product and it's not available and you have to have it, what would you buy instead?" What consumers will consider as your product's immediate replacement is its true, consumer-defined competitor.

That replacement's product category is the product category where you belong. Recall what we said: "If your consumer doesn't find your product in the category shelf where she expected to find it, she'll just assume that you're out of stock, and she'll just buy another."

You probably will remind us that we're talking here about a "new product." We used quotation marks there because you said you're launching a C2-like product.

So this is a clear case of "new" to the company but not "new" to the consumer. But for the sake of this discussion, let's talk about a new-to-the-consumer product. In this case, your reminder is well taken. The consumer doesn't really know your new product and therefore won't know what to replace it with. So what should you then do?

Product test

If you follow our thinking process, the next step becomes clear: Let your consumer know the new product. In market research terms, this translates into doing a product test of the new product with your target consumers. It's the product test that will allow your consumer to experience what's new in your product.

That's the same as saying that during the product test, your consumer will get to see and appreciate the product values and qualities you've placed there. After the product test, your consumer then has the product familiarity that she needs to answer our proposed question to ask.

We've also been asked about existing "old" brands. Here's a common question: If, for example, a brand repositions or is reformulated, will this change its product category membership?

Consider the case of Medicol. That started, if we correctly recall, as an aspirin. Then in the 1980s, when medical science associated aspirin with some bad gastro side effects, Medicol was reformulated and relaunched as a paracetamol. In the late 1990s, it was again reformulated and relaunched as pure ibuprofen.

Comparing apples to bananas?

In one big marketing conference last year, the senior MRx-er was presenting data illustrating the market reality of price segments.

The data included consumer price sensitivity to Medicol. Two price segments were identified: The economy price segment where Medicol and Biogesic fell, and the premium price segment that Ponstan represented.

Someone in the audience who identified himself as a Unilab executive, went to the microphone and "corrected" the senior MRx-er. He said the senior MRx-er was comparing "apples with bananas." The data on the three brands of Medicol, Biogesic and Ponstan cannot be compared. That's because they represented three distinct product categories: Medicol is in the ibuprofen category; Biogesic, in the paracetamol category; and Ponstan, in the mefenamic acid category.

The product categories identified were, of course, all correct. But they were marketer-driven or market-driving categories. On the consumers' part, however, although many have heard the marketer's product categories of ibuprofen, paracetamol and mefenamic acid, few really knew about them nor cared about them.

When the research asked a Ponstan consumer our category-identifying question: "If Ponstan is not available, what will you buy instead?" consumers were quick to say, "Biogesic," "Medicol," or some others.

Similarly, with the Medicol consumers, or the Biogesic consumers. In other words, all three belonged to one consumer-defined product category: the anti-headache, or anti-pain category.

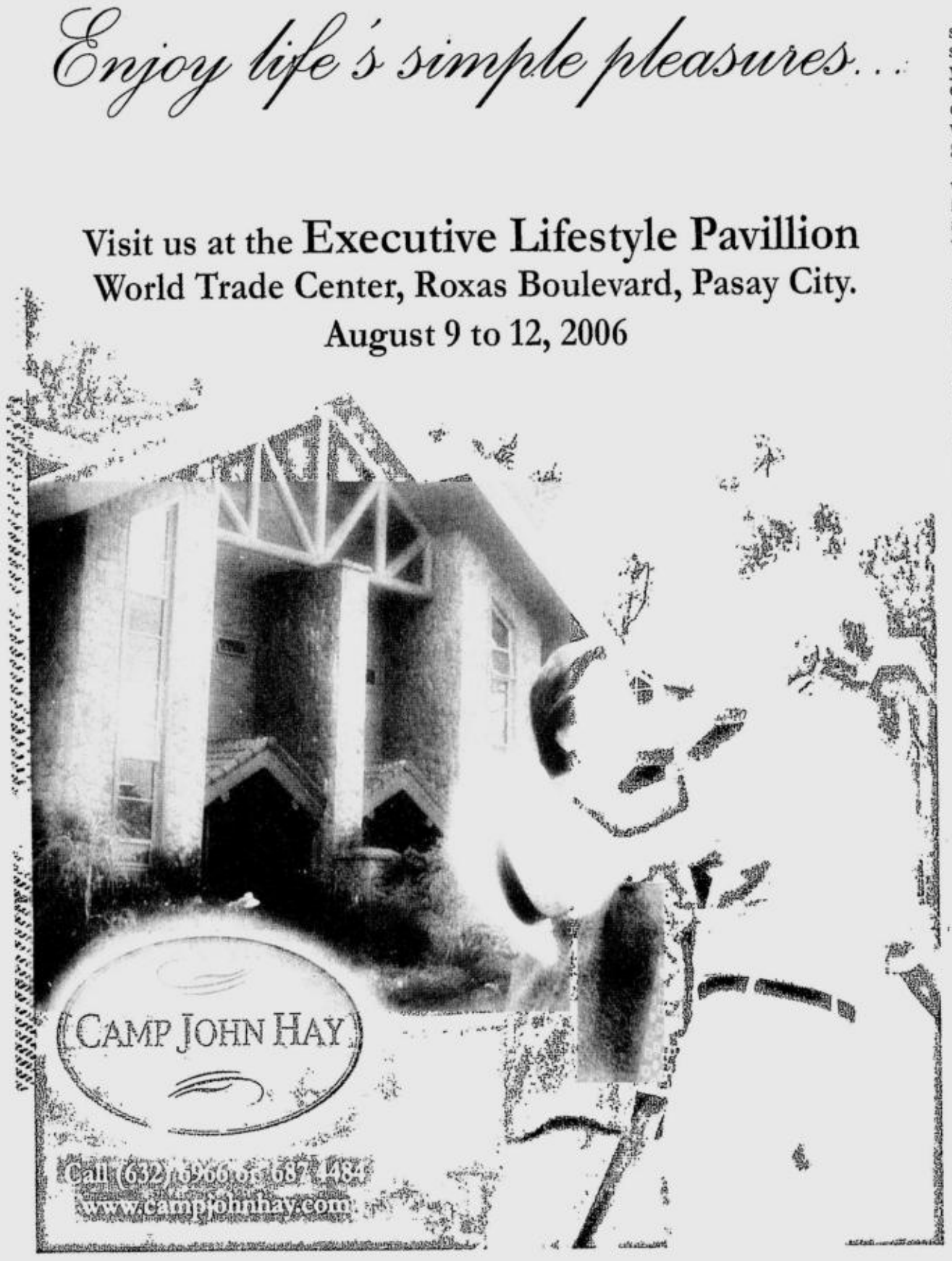
The practical question that matters for successful marketing is this: "Whose product categorization should prevail? The marketer's medical science-based product categories? Or the consumer's need-based all-encompassing singular product category?"

It's the prevailing GMP (Great Marketing Practice) mantra that should prevail. We've heard that mantra before but it's worth repeating here.

It says: "In your marketing and selling, and any other marketing decision, always start from where your consumers are, and never from where you (as marketers) are."

Converge with your consumers. Don't expect consumers to converge with you. It's a recipe for marketing disaster to do otherwise.

Send questions to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!



INSULAR LIFE posts strong financial performance

INSULAR LIFE, the largest Filipino life insurance company, posted a consolidated net income of P1.46 billion last year, 20% higher than the 2004 level of P1.21 billion.

The healthy results are attributed to higher returns on invested assets, improved matching of investments to product liabilities, higher dividend income from a strong portfolio of equity investments, administrative cost savings from a more efficient customer servicing platform, and improved production from alternative distribution channels.

Insular Life's financial stability and 95-year record of delivering on its contractual commitments, have enabled the company to withstand the widespread erosion of public confidence in certain financial institutions that was brought about by the difficulties of leading pre-need companies.

Despite the political turmoil and difficult economic conditions in 2005, Insular Life generated gross premiums of P7.2 billion, which was comparable to 2004 results. Total revenues stood at P10 billion on the back of premium income and strong investment performance, which improved by 21% to P2.9 billion. Meanwhile, benefit payments to policyholders increased by 5% to P4.1 billion. Total assets increased by P1.8 billion, from P42.2 billion to P44.0 billion. Members' equity improved by P2.7 billion, from P6.8 billion in 2004 to P9.5 billion by end 2005.

Recently, the company was among the lenders that extended a P4.5 billion loan to port operator International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI). Likewise, Insular Life, through its investment house, Insular Investment and Trust Corporation, was tapped as one of only seven (7) financial institutions that underwrote the P5.8 billion fund-raising of Ayala Corporation.

Insular Life was also adjudged as the Gold Awardee for the second consecutive year, 2005 and 2006, under the insurance category by the Reader's Digest Most Trusted Brand Survey. Insular Life scored high in the survey's quantitative and qualitative scores, performing clearly above other brands in the insurance category. It placed ahead of competitors as more respondents identified Insular Life as their life insurance company of choice. On the other hand, the Company earned consumers' nod in six key brand values: Quality, Value, Trustworthiness, Strong Image, Understanding of Customer Needs, and Innovativeness.

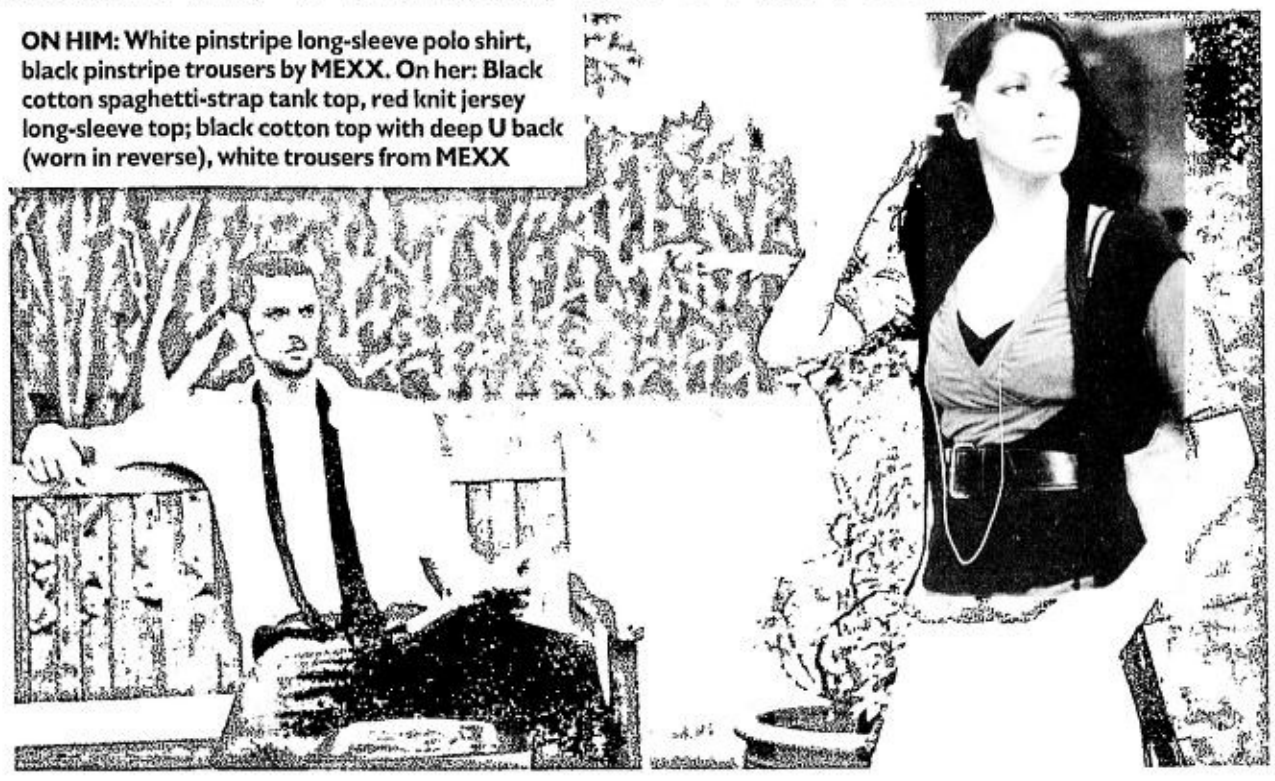
Sa halos isandaang taon, itinuturing naming pinakamalaking yaman ang aming mga natutunan: Tulad ng kahalagahan ng pagtupad sa mga kasunduan - may krisis o kaguluhan man. Tiwala kaming ito'y magagamit para sa iyong kabutihan. Yan ang pangako ng Insular Life - ang pinakamalaking Filipino life insurance company. **May pinagdaanan, may patutunguhan.**

ANG
PAN DE COCO
NA MAS
NAGPAPASIGLA...
SIKSIK SA
ENERGY BOOSTING
CARBOHYDRATES,
NUTRIENTS AT
BITAMINA.
KAIN NA NG
PAN DE COCO!

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) **or email us at** lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

ON MIKEE: Floral-print long-sleeve polo shirt, denim jeans, both by **MEXX. On Alessandra:** Dark-blue lycra spaghetti-strap tank top, light-blue chiffon top with silver sequins, black knit wraparound sweater, gray twill Bermuda shorts from **MEXX**



ON HIM: White pinstripe long-sleeve polo shirt, black pinstripe trousers by **MEXX. On her:** Black cotton spaghetti-strap tank top, red knit jersey long-sleeve top; black cotton top with deep U back (worn in reverse), white trousers from **MEXX**

Dutch treat

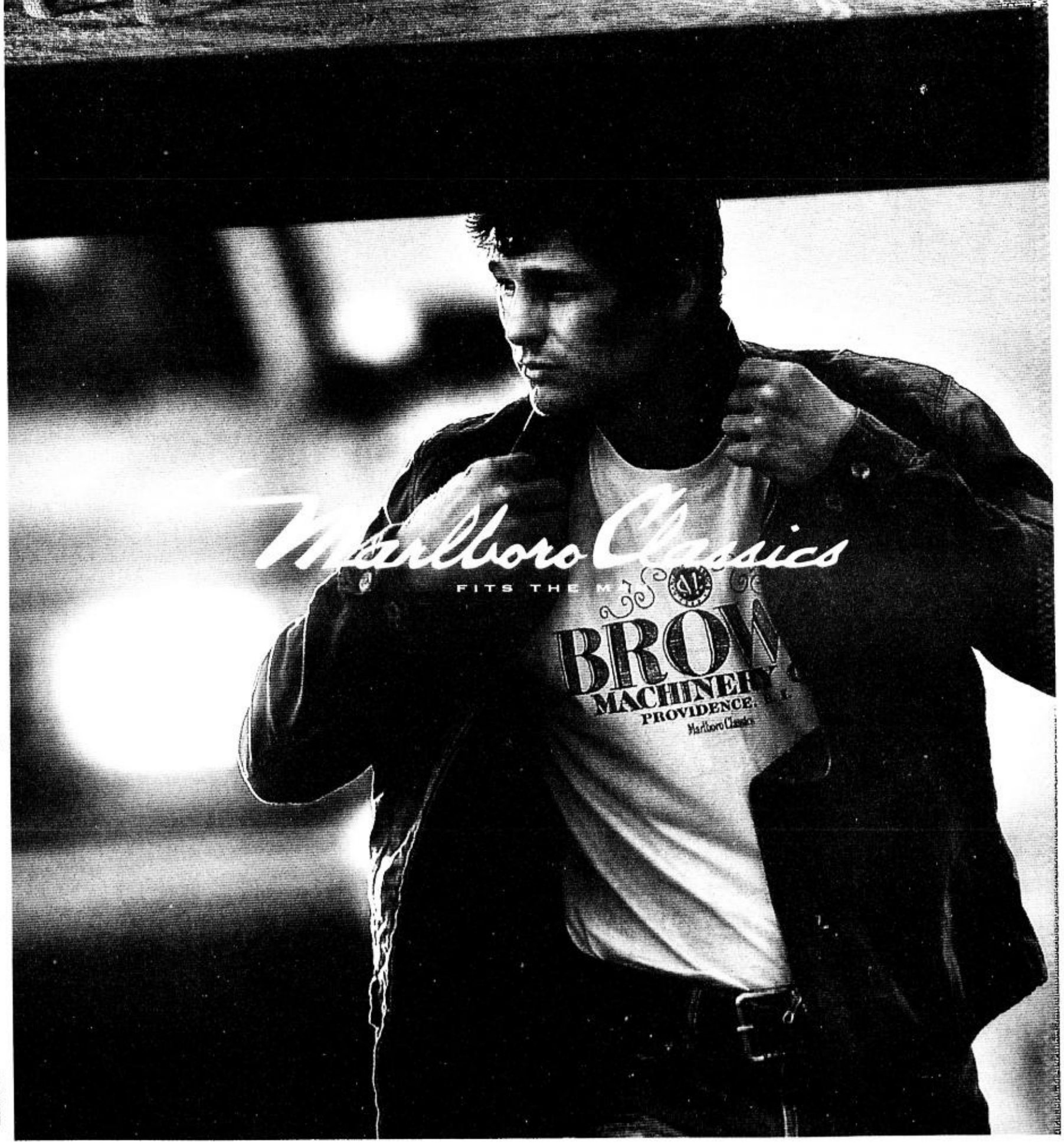
EURO-CHIC IS NOW IN Manila courtesy of fashion brand Mexx. Energetic and creative individuals who embrace chance encounters are what Mexx is all about.

The lifestyle label from Netherlands offers a new collection inspired by '60s and '70s rock 'n' roll. The range of fabrics includes cotton and wool mixes, raw edges, broken seams, and distressed fabrics in blacks, whites and grays vis-à-vis petrol shades.

Mexx's fashion style celebrates surprise, effortlessness and a free-spirited nature in its wearers. Exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. Mexx is now available at Greenbelt 3 and SM Mall of Asia.

ON HIM: Maroon pinstripe long-sleeve polo shirt, denim jeans, black leather belt by **MEXX. On her:** Gray cotton racerback tank top with gold grommets, black knit jersey dress, maroon knit wraparound sweater with velvet ribbon, gunmetal leather bag, all from **MEXX**

ON HIM: Beige cotton crewneck long-sleeve shirt, red cotton crewneck T-shirt, khaki pinstripe trousers, all from **MEXX. On her:** White cotton racerback tank top with gold print, white cotton jacket, black cargo pants, all from **MEXX**



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DULCE Q. Saguisag, Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino, Celia Lambino, Alma Q. Kern; (standing) Ernie Fajardo, Mars Lambino and Vice Mayor Osmundo Lambino

CELEBRATOR'S friends. Justa Tantoco, Baby Magsaysay, Minerva Tanseco, Joann Salgado; (standing) Bergamo's Mel Meer, popular couple Louie and Mellie Ablaza, vivacious Tereret Liboro and honorary Angola consul Helen Ong

SEN. RAMON Magsaysay and publisher Tony Lopez

Birthday bash one shouldn't miss

NEW Fordham graduate and only son Paolo Oñate (center) with proud parents Marianne Uy and Noel Oñate

IT WAS ONE RECEPTION THAT *MOI* couldn't miss, *palanggas*. First of all, it was hosted by one of my favorite hotels, the elegant Mandarin Oriental; and second, it was a party thrown by a close pal, civic leader and woman of substance **Rose Marie "Baby" Jimenez Arenas**, in honor of brilliant **Nileema Noble** of the United Nations Development Program in the Philippines, dahlings.

By chance, the event coincided with the birthday of Baby A., who is well-loved by Cosmo Manille society personas. Helping Baby entertain was her attractive daughter, young miss with the four Bs, **Rachel A.**, who had just finished graduate school in the renowned Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of the Tufts University. Now, our celebrator can be sure she can reach out to more people.

True to the tradition that Baby A. and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel had become famous for, the gathering brought out the town's hot-shot namedroppables, from the diplo-set to political establishment and society pack, *palanggas*.

Leo Valdez, one of the country's finest world-class performing artists, gifted his pal Baby with several tunes from his "Miss Saigon" role as The Engineer.

Next were the Philippine Madrigal Singers who had just captured the grand prize in a big international choir competition in France, *palanggas*.

Young finalists from the popular "Pinoy.Pop Superstars" show of GMA 7 dished out songs to showcase world-class Filipino talent .

The Tivoli was so packed like a sardine can that the affair had to extend to the Clipper Lounge. More buffet tables were also added. The tables had a variety of Mandarin's specialties such as the calorific pudding with almonds, raisins and vanilla creme, which is Baby's favorite dessert.

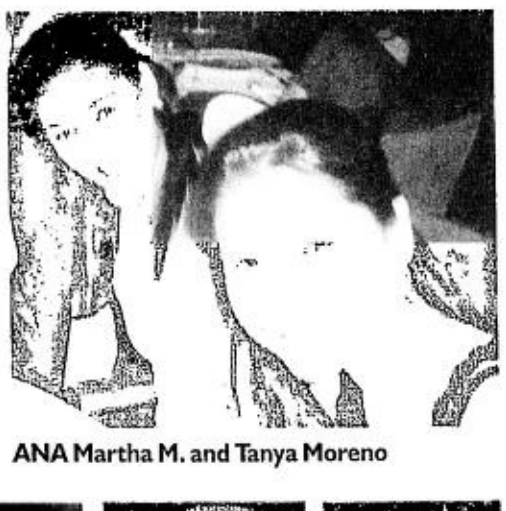
The following day, faster than you could bat an eyelash, Rachel A., the dedicated young miss of the less fortunate, dashed off, and was busy helping her province mate in the third district of Pangasinan, where many are keeping their fingers crossed and insisting that she should run as representative in the coming elections, dahlings.

RACHEL Arenas, celebrator Baby Jimenez Arenas and guest of honor Nileema Noble, United Nations Development Program representative

JOHNNY Velasquez, Paolo O., Lorenzo Valdez, Noel Oñate and Chickie Locsin

JOHN Scranton, Paolo Oñate, Paul Chhoy; (seated) Pia Velasquez, Bea Locsin and Joanne Peñaranda

BOJ Locsin



ANA Martha M. and Tanya Moreno

GRACE Doria and Patrick Vendiola

MARIO Borao and Coy Uy

LORRIE Reynoso, hostess Marianne Oñate, Maripi Muscat; (seated) Lisa Bayot, Lori Valdez and Vicki Antonio

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

New York treat

The best champagne overflowed in a fab graduation party hosted by Asian Spirit's CEO and mega banker **Noel Oñate** and his wife, super hostess **Marianne Uy**, for their only son, smart, handsome and *tres charmant* **Paolo**, who graduated with high honors at Fordham University with a business administration degree, major in finance, *palanggas*.

Paolo, a super brilliant boy who took after his parents, had a whole year of intensive studies in Beijing, China, taking up a Study Abroad Program where I'm sure he established fab connections for future ventures.

Held at one of New York's top restaurants, Le Bernardin, the *tres* elegant dinner had the chosen 31 invitees extremely delighted over the excellently prepared five-course menu, and superb wine specially chosen by Noel O., a true gourmand and connoisseur.

Close pals were present such as **Lori** and **Lorenzo Valdez**, who had jetted in from Manille; **Maripi Muscat** and **Johnny Velasquez**, with daughter, sultry beauty **Pia**; world travelers **Jun** and **Lisa Bayot**; Madrid-based **Mario Borao**; **Vicky Antonio** and **Chiqui Locsin** with daughters **Sarah** and **Bea**; and **Lorrie Reynoso** of the New York Restaurant School, plus others, dahlings.

With young people like Paolo giving their best to their studies, this country can hopefully look forward to having more responsible leaders in the future, *palanggas*.

SEN. RICHARD Gordon

INQUIRER'S well-loved and respected chair of the board, Marixi Rufino Prieto

Extreme fresh breath

The Embassy Super Club at The Fort has definitely become one of the ultimate nightlife destinations for our town's hip movers and shakers on the fast lane, *palanggas*.

The hot, hot event saluted "extreme" personalities of Cosmo Manille, those who party the night away while rocking at the dance floor, elbow to elbow, especially during weekends, to the sounds of the hottest DJs.

More than ever, these people must never forget about having fresh breath!

"The new Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme is a revolutionary mouthwash with anti-bacterial compound called Chlorthexedine that actually fights morning breath," explained young man of substance, workasonic **GP Reyes**, dahlings.

Moi took a swig and wow! I loved it, *palanggas*. It's got a cool lemon-lime flavor, leaving a refreshing blast of cool freshness in the mouth, perfect for those hot nights out in the club.

Believe *moi*, it really works! Gargle before going out to party or before bedtime and wake up with that fresh, cool, clean feeling!

Check it out, *palanggas*. It'll leave your breath great all day long.

ADORABLE Arlene de Castro, wife of Vice President Noli de Castro

"PINOY Big Brother's" Nene Tamayo

VJ NIKKI Gil of Myx

ONE of the "extreme" personalities saluted by Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme, beautiful Isabel Roces

AUTORACER Tyson Sy

TALENTED designer Mich Dulce

HOT Paolo Valenciano, heir to father Gary V's throne

Wanted: Fashion 'sabong'

Rivalry and competition should spice up a bland local fashion scene

PHILIPPINE FASHION HAS cliffhanger moments which you don't see. They're not on the runway or on those luscious fashion spreads.

One of the suspenseful moments in my career as a journalist was a milestone fashion shoot I did in the '90s for the defunct Manila Chronicle, which gathered the country's top designers in one room. The shoot was to be the paper's yearend special—a casting coup. Getting the designers' schedules was not tricky; putting them all in one room was. How would you abort the chemical explosion among fierce rivals, some of whom weren't even on speaking terms?

At that time, **Pitoy Moreno** and **Ben Farrales** were at the peak of their cold war—akin to US and the Soviet Union's (when there was still the USSR). Don't ask me the cause of the two designers' cold war. Given that the fashion industry at that time was an industry where intrigues were born every minute, I don't remember the cause, and I think neither Mang Ben or Pitoy would know the reason—now.

Anyway, the two arrived at the shoot one after another, with their models in tow. Of course, I assigned them separate rooms and staffers. The other designers watched them in suspense.

When the time came for them to face the camera—only the two of them—the photographer was at a loss, because there was this abyss between them, like the Red Sea parting. Not even the flurry of gestures from me for the two designers to close in could remove the yawning gap between them; the two giants of Philippine couture wouldn't budge an inch to move closer to each other.

Finally, after a few breath-arresting seconds, somebody had the brilliant idea of shoving **Inno Sotto** and **Auggie Cordero** into the gaping space between Mang Ben and Pitoy. Good thing, because while Inno and Auggie were always pitted against each other—and still are—they were amiable to each other; posing side by side was no big deal to them.

With such blocking, the memorable shoot was completed. Of course, in time, Mang Ben and Pitoy reconciled and became the best of friends again. (Now, don't ask me for an update on that.)

Anyway, I look back on those exciting, dynamic years because they make me realize just how competition—fierce competition—is missing from today's fashion landscape.

Today is so unlike the previous years when the fashion grapevine was astir with rumor every minute, and designers held their breath in anticipation of the week's fashion headlines and reviews—to see how bad their competitors did, and not to see whether they made it in the "left-to-right" society photo.

Outdoing each other in their design statements—and collection output—was the do-or-die concern of the designers.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

The lack of competition is perhaps due to the lack of venues for the staging of a full collection. Today's designers rarely have the opportunity to trot their collection. Most fashion events are mainly for one to five pieces paraded at bars or restos where mostly everyone would be too drunk to notice the clothes anyway.

A top designer freaked out last year when he noted how the audience was chatting away as the collection of a fellow designer was paraded. It was his first show in a while so he didn't know that that is how fashion shows are now. "*Nakakaloka*," he said, "they're not even looking at the ramp."

Sad, but today, designers' clothes in bars are no different from finger food—they're just there to complement alcohol intake.

Metrowear fashion series

In order to promote the proper appreciation for fashion, as well as rekindle interest in it, we have thought of a series of fashion shows that will feature designers, back-to-back, unfurling 15-25 clothes each—a relatively full collection by Metro Manila standards.

That way, designers, particularly the young ones, are trained and given the opportunity to complete a collection. There's an arena to display their stuff.

That way, too, competition is engendered, friendly or otherwise. And competition spells growth, if not dynamism.

Also, the audience will know what a collection is and how to tell it apart from their tequila and vodka.

To be called the "Metrowear Series, Holiday Collections" (in the tradition of the Metrowear Gala of the past three years), the series in October has the support of big business.

When we asked why Samsung is staging the Metrowear Series, **Penn Roque**, the country rep of Chiel Communications, said, "because Samsung believes in this vision."

Of course, Samsung aligns itself with Philippine fashion and lifestyle because its products complement them. In this case, according to marketing manager **Angie Limbaco**, Samsung has introduced the LCD TV (Bordeaux), which is a design statement in itself because it's thin and sleek. Samsung has also introduced "ultra-edition" phones X820, D830, D900, which are chic lifestyle phones.

Our good friend, **Raffy Florencio** of Technomarine, Morellato jewelry and Officine del Tempo, is also helping out.

Indeed, it's a gargantuan task to stage fashion collections. So who will be the chic gladiators? A vibrant mix of established and young designers.

Directed by **Jackie Aquino**, the series will open with **Rajo Laurel** and **Rhett Eala**, and **Mike de la Rosa** and **Lulu Tan Gan**. Other designers are **Dennis Lustico, Jun Escario, Efren Ocampo, Ivarluski Aseron, Joey Samson, Randy Ortiz, Tonichi Nocom** and **Cesar Gaupo**.

"*Pinagsasabong mo kami!*" Inno loves to tell me.

Why not? Manila is sooo boring.

Wintour's office

In New York and elsewhere, even in some nosey corners of Manila, the talk is still **Meryl Streep** and her "The Devil Wears Prada."

Meryl saw to it that her character would not be a cardboard rendition of Vogue's **Anna Wintour**—so physically, and character-wise, she was very different from the most powerful fashion editor in the world.

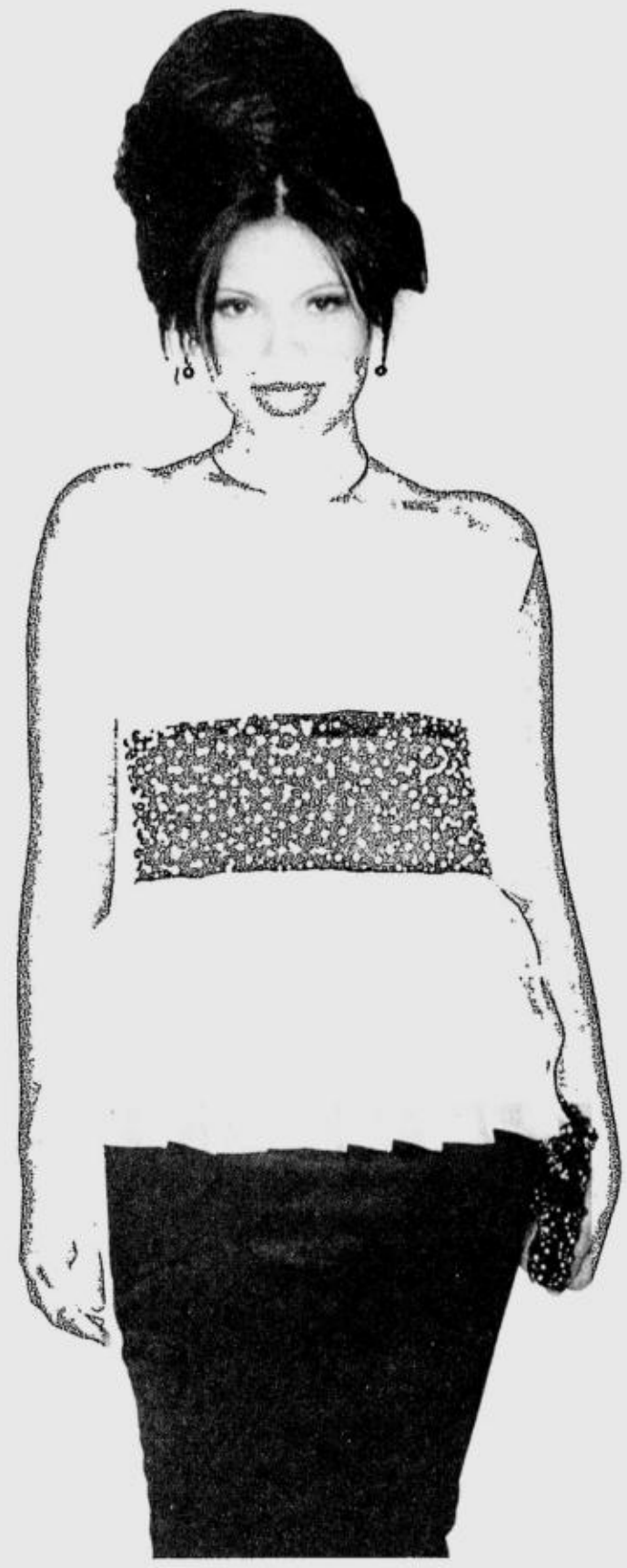
However, the film's production designer didn't have to make such distinctions, so Streep's office was exactly that of Wintour's.

Women's Wear Daily now reports that "Wintour has redecorated to erase any similarity." WWD quotes a Vogue spokesperson: "Anna has decided to freshen up her office. After this summer's film, it ceased to feel personal."

According to WWD, the production designer based his work on a photo of Wintour at her desk which he found online.

Vogue, however, wouldn't say just how Wintour's office has been changed.

KATE Torralba's designs, inspired by 1950s French fashion



Fashion lessons in France

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

MONIQUE SAULOG FELL IN LOVE with Paris on her first visit years ago when she was still in high school. Now 23, the young woman will fulfill her dream of living in the City of Lights as she leaves to pursue a master's degree at Mod'Art International, a fashion and design school in the French capital.

It was the likes of Saulog that EduFrance, Alliance Francaise de Manille and the French Embassy in Manila had in mind when they held "FCPH: French Connection Philippines 2006" last Saturday—young Filipinos with interest in pursuing higher education on fashion design and merchandising in the world's haute couture capital.

They were not disappointed as some 500 young professionals and students alike vied for elbow space at the Alliance offices in Makati, for the seminars conducted by Mod'Art's international vice president and international affairs director Alfred Madhavy and knitwear designer and entrepreneur Lulu Tan Gan. In the evening, there was also a fashion show featuring Kate Torralba's French-inspired designs and some French labels.

EduFrance is the agency that promotes French higher education overseas, with offices in several countries. It assists foreign students in choosing a program to organizing their stay in France. Its Manila office (tel. 8957585; e-mail cregino@alliance.ph) was set up in 2000, and has since been sending 40-50 students a year.

Cesar Regino Jr., education counselor at EduFrance, said this year's FCPH chose to focus on fashion design and merchandising. It invited Mod'Art to make its pitch.

Increased interest

The Philippines has been experiencing an increased interest in the study of fashion in the recent years that several local universities have introduced their own fashion programs.

"When I went to visit the College of St. Benilde in 2000," said Tan Gan, "I think there were only five students in fashion. Now there are so many of them. There's quite an interest, and I think it's very good. In this industry it's very important to have formal training."

Most of the country's current designers, Tan Gan said, relied on pure talent as upstarts, as there were no formal fashion institutes in the Philippines. There were only vocational schools where they learned basic patterns and sewing, she added, but not much else. They had no instructions on the business aspect.

Tan Gan herself studied fine arts with very minimal formal training in fashion. She said she relied on a lot of personal research to learn more about her craft and its business side. (Not long ago she took up a fabric design course at Central Saint Martins in London.) Her eponymous knitwear line is among the most enduring local labels.

"We're so far behind compared to other countries which have long had formal fashion education programs," she said. "Technical knowledge is important. It allows you to explore what you are capable of. And it sets the discipline.

Exposure

While she believes the new local fashion schools are competitive, Tan Gan also pointed out certain advantages to studying in a country like France.

"The Philippines is still very conservative. We're restricted by norms... Everyone's dressed the same... When you go out, that's when you get exposed and you find your individuality. You find the potential in yourself." She added that Paris, being a fashion city and a repository of ideas and the arts, is ideal for research.

However, she said Filipino students should learn first their local history. "It's important to know what the West is doing if you want to go global, but it's also important to find your identity as a Filipino. It seems we know more about the West... The burden is on these students to define Filipino fashion because I don't think my generation has done that."

Saulog and a Filipina friend, whose classes will commence next month, are enrolled in Mod'Art's yearlong master's program in luxury brand management. The program costs over 10,000 euros. The upside, said Saulog, who took French lessons for two years, is that all their classes will be taught in English.

> Learn from the French haute couture masters the whys and wherefores of fashion

Tan Gan, a former president of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines, said the council hopes to be able to give out grants to aspiring designers who wish to study abroad. Previously designers like Jojie Lloren had taken courses in Paris via a design competition held by FDCP (Lloren won the Paris grand prize in 1998, earning him a scholarship).

Regino clarified that Edufrance doesn't offer scholarships, but he said interested students may inquire at the French embassy.

"Fashion seems frivolous but it's one of the hardest businesses, that's why I tried to dissuade my daughters," Tan Gan said. Her younger daughter is now on her first year of fashion merchandising studies in the US. "Interest is a big plus factor, but passion and discipline are what will sustain you."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

Mr. and Miss University International chosen Aug. 14

THE PHILIPPINES WILL HOST THE 28TH MR. AND Miss University International pageant Aug. 14. Proclamation night will be held at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, QC. The annual event caps the four-day International Youth Congress. Participants in the pageant will be evaluated on intelligence, wit, personality, leadership potential and interest in community service. Winners are expected to become campus role models and "peace ambassadors."

GOINGS ON

VALUE-PACKED. Sun Cellular's prepaid SIM Packs offers the Perks for Prepaid Promo that gives new prepaid subscribers various perks and privileges at partner establishments. Subscribers also have a chance to win six Sony Ericsson camera phones, five sets of Robinsons Gift Certificates worth P3,000 each, 10 gift packs from M&Ms and Snickers, and 10 sets of one-year subscription to Summit Media's Cosmopolitan and Preview magazines. The promo runs until Sept. 30. Raffle draw is on Oct. 7. Visit any of 37 Sun shops in major malls nationwide.

WORKSHOP. ProActive Center will hold the three-day "Develop Your Professional Assertiveness and Confidence Workshop," 1-5 p.m., Aug. 16-18, at Unit 1203, Antel Global Corporate Center, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City. Participants are expected to gain self-confidence and learn skills in communicating and dealing with difficult people, among others. Workshop fee covers training manuals, handouts, snacks and certificate of completion. Call 6673369/70.

HEALTH/BEAUTY FAIR. It's health and beauty month at Sta. Lucia East Department Store, so shop for the best brands of cosmetics, fragrances, skincare and other wellness products on sale. There'll be free makeover, product demonstrations and giveaways from the beauty bars. VCDs will be given away to the first 100 shoppers who will present a minimum single purchase receipt of P300 of any health and beauty product. Call 6815181 loc. 138.

WRITING WORKSHOP. A creative writing workshop for adults (21 years old and above) is being offered during weekends of August and September. Visit its office at Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati. The workshop will focus on developing one's writing style and will run for six sessions, 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:30-3:30 p.m. Call 8156925 or 8154938.

ALUMNI CONGRESS. The Philippine Women's University-Manila and the Philippine Women's College of Davao will hold the "Second Global Alumni Congress and Reunion," Aug. 16-20, at PWC in Matina, Davao City, with the theme "Sharing our Achievements, Living our Commitments." Call 5268421 loc. 110-111 (PWU-Manila) or 9206319 (PWU- QC).

MEMBERS of St. Theresa's College QC high school Class '67 recently met to organize their ruby anniversary next year. Members of the organizing committee are Maribel Cervantes, Leila Caldito, Margie Juico, Connie Guanzon-Garcia, Dedette Factora and Lilian Castillo. Standing: Thelma Cheng, Grace Sta. Clara, Cench Manotok, Mariles Besinga, Lulu Cinco, Ruby Tiglao, Julibel Alegre, Sydney Young, Tess Mondejar, Colin King.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Trade Training Center of the Department of Trade and Industry will conduct a seminar on "Production and Operations," Aug. 21-22, at Seminar Room G, 2/F, PTTC Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Call 8341344 to 49, 8337337 and 8341343.

SEMINAR. The Philippine Trade Training Center of the Department of Trade and Industry will conduct a seminar on "Competitive Export Management," Aug. 22-23, at Seminar Room A, 2/F, PTTC Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Call the Trade Business Management Division at 8341344 to 49, 8319988 or 8341343.

MALL SALE. Star Group of Malls will hold a three-day sale on Aug. 18-20. Shoppers can enjoy up to 70-percent discount on selected items, from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Starmall Las Pinas, Metropolis Star Alabang and Starmall Edsa.

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Contributing editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

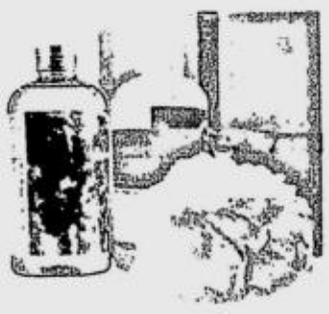
FASHION IN THE MIX

PHOTOGRAPHY ERWIN BARLETA/EDGE OF LIGHT
MAKEUP CLAIRE SEELIN-DIOKNO FOR SHU UEMURA
USING LIMITED EDITION FILIGREE
HAIR RICK DIOKNO FOR KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
MODEL ISABEL ROCES/PMAP
SITTINGS EDITOR MAUREEN DISINI

Skincare

Hair Care

Make-up



Body Care

natural story

THEFACESHOP

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SEOUL TOKYO HONGKONG SINGAPORE NEW YORK LOS ANGELES SYDNEY

Ooops!

In the story "Fashionology" by Cheche V. Moral *(PDI, 07/21/06)*, we inadvertently printed photos of "Hermés" bags of questionable provenance. We regret the error.

ON RIA: Draped white jersey and stretch tulle with embroidered appliqué by Patrice Ramos-Diaz

ON MARCO: Pique long sleeves with zip-front detail and twill pants by Rajo Laurel. On Enchong: Cotton long sleeves and cotton pants by Rhett Eala

Blanc canvas

The immaculate hue is a staple in great fashion

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

WHITE IS HOTTER THAN ever. It is undeniably a fashion-must, no matter the time of year. Billowy white skirts and dresses or cool linen slacks reign supreme during the sweltering summer season; while chic, icy suits and coats take their place during the colder "ber" months.

And just as black has evolved into a million and one incarnations in the form of stylized little black dresses, white has taken all shapes and styles to suit different personalities. For more formal affairs, the non-color can even provide as much drama and sophistication as fail-safe black.

To illustrate the importance of this pristine hue as a fashion mainstay, three of Manila's most sought-after designers came up with all-white collections for "All White, No Black," a Coke Light party and fashion show on Aug. 23 at the Rockwell Tent.

Rhett Eala, Patrice Ramos-Díaz and Rajo Laurel summoned their creative juices to design collections characterized by special couture details and interesting silhouettes.

The biggest challenge was in making the single hue look appealing and more than one-dimensional.

But all three designers were up to the task.

Rhett Eala, who is most known for his soft, feminine, delicate dresses, use of silk chiffon and expert manipulation of black, used a lot of bias-cutting and draping techniques on chiffon to bring his designs to life.

To avoid monotony, he created individual pieces such as day-coats and gowns that form a collection when grouped together.

For special, more formal occasions, Rhett advises that it's best to keep white in its purest form by using luxurious fabrics like silk organdy or Mikado silk.

He also cautions that white should only be worn for appropriate occasions. "Although the color basically complements most skin types and can be worn any season, it's best not to wear it to weddings. Let the bride stand out on her special day," he says.

Rajo Laurel, on the other hand, created a collection inspired by relaxed luxury.

"I tried to strike a balance between really intricate details on simple silhouettes," he says.

The designer, whose strength lies in his deft draping, use of soft fluid materials like jersey and exquisite evening wear, used fabrics like silk jersey, stretch tulle, paper silk taffeta and *piña*, while applying 3D embroidery, hand beading, silk fringing and hand bound seams.

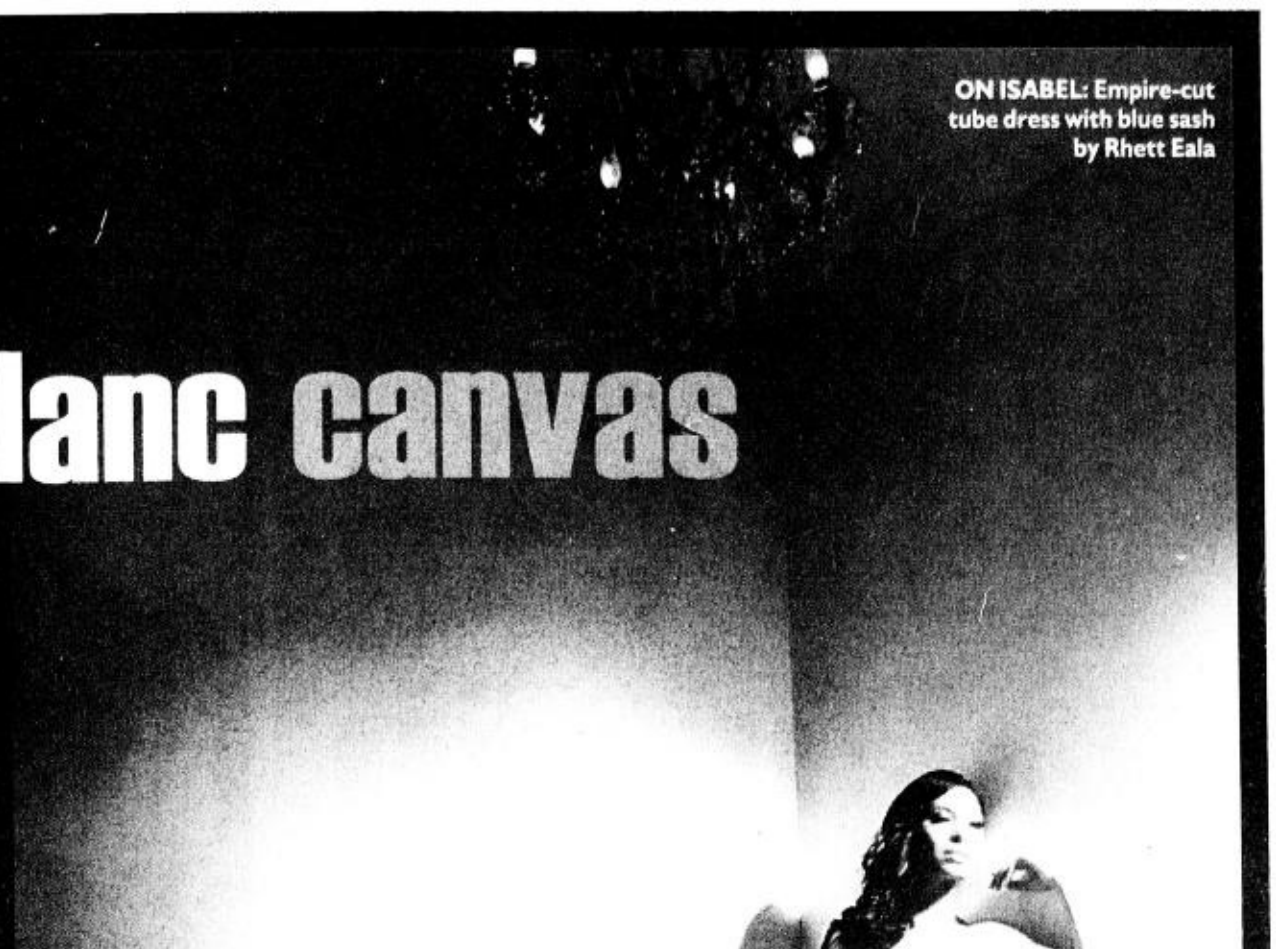
BLANC/ D2

ON RIA: Long T-shirt dress with cutwork detail by Patrice Ramos-Diaz.
On Niña: Beaded and embroidered wrap blouse and wide leg pants by Rajo Laurel.
On Isabel: Long scoop-neck gown by Rhett Eala

PHOTOGRAPHY: ERWIN BARLETA/EDGE OF LIGHT
MAKEUP: CLAIRE SEELIN-DIOKNO FOR SHU UEMURA
USING LIMITED EDITION FILIGREE
HAIR: RICK DIOKNO FOR KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
MODELS: ISABEL ROCES/IMAGE NINA NAVAL/CALCARRA'S RIA BOLIVAR, ENCHONG DEE, MARCO SCHALL
SITTING'S EDITOR: MAUREEN DISINI

Blanc canvas

ON NIÑA: Jersey knotted T-shirt, tulle corset and silk thread fringe skirt by Rajo Laurel



ON ISABEL: Empire-cut tube dress with blue sash by Rhett Eala

From page D2

Patrice Ramos Diaz, who is admired for her feminine, romantic pieces and use of lace and tulle, relied on her strengths to come out with a visual and tactile treat of textures on white.

"I will show pieces with cutwork, knotting and some experimental beadwork using semiprecious stones and mother-of-pearl. I also used a lot of jersey and stretch tulle," she says.

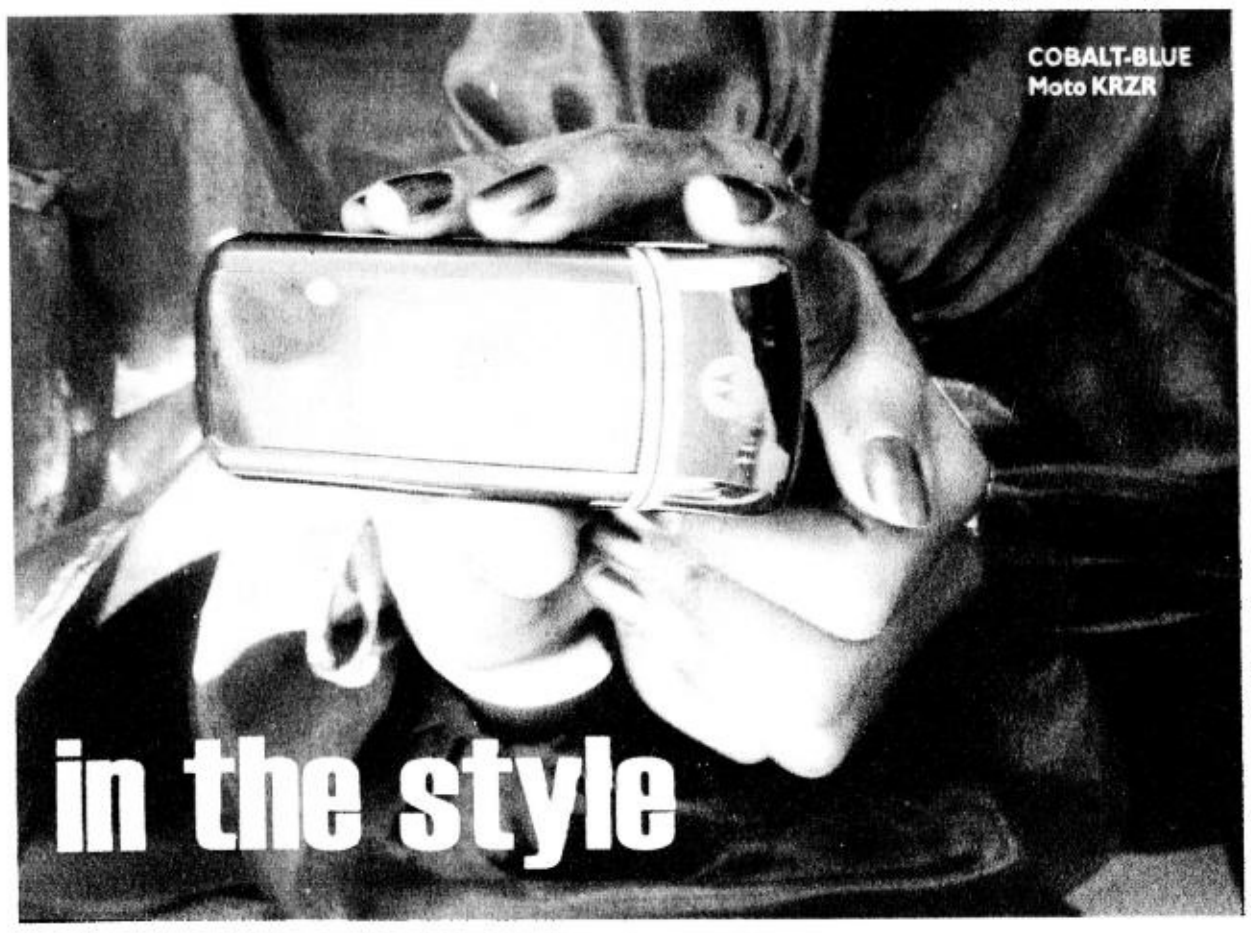
On the other hand, Patrice also believes in keeping it simple. "White is best when it's kept clean and streamlined. A T-shirt dress in jersey worn with flat sandals will look elegant," she adds.

No matter the season or occasion, turn to white for fresh, fashion-inspiration. Breezy summer dresses, streamlined suits or even formal evening gowns will all look stylishly chic when done in this immaculate hue.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

A JOURNALIST tries a model unit for size.

Ringin' in the style



Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

If people have more than one watch, it isn't a surprise that some people now match their cell phones with their wardrobes

WHILE THE WORLD'S attention was riveted to the newest round of conflicts in the Middle East, a much more benign development took place recently in South Africa. This one could further fuel the already intense mobile phone wars among the industry's major players.

In its bid to dominate the global cell-phone market and provide "image-conscious" people with better alternatives to match their individual styles (yes, down to their shoes, handbags and perhaps even makeup), officials of Chicago-based Motorola recently launched sleeker, narrower and more powerful versions of its trademark clamshell phones.

Lifestyle and IT journalists from all over the world flew to Cape Town, South Africa's cultural capital, a few weeks ago to cover the launch. In keeping with Moto's hip image, the products' unveiling was held in a minimalist, two-story affair in one of the city's upscale neighborhoods facing the Atlantic.

Instead of furniture pieces, the house boasted of contemporary artworks by the country's leading artists. This was just as well, as the objects' subdued colors, shapes and textures complemented Moto's new family of phones inspired by its RAZR and PEBL.

Moto's most successful phone to date, the RAZR has reportedly sold over 50 million units since it debuted in the market 18 months ago. It has even spawned a flashy clamshell version in gold designed by Italian fashion duo Dolce and Gabanna.

Narrower models

With this launch, the phone now comes in two new variants that channel the RAZR's killer looks and the PEBL's tactile warmth and "grip ability": KRZR and RIZR (call Motorola at tel. 8932565 or go to www.hellomoto.com/ph).

The former is a clamshell while the latter is an expandable slider. Besides a two-megapixel camera, both phones come with such built-in features as Bluetooth, Internet-browsing, video and music capabilities.

Although a tad heavier, longer and thicker than the RAZR, both KRZR and RIZR are narrower, per feedback from customers in certain regions and demographics. They loved RAZR, but wanted to see something a bit narrower and handier.

Executives led by Allen Burns, Tracey Koziol, Jim Wicks and Neil Stewart, among others, also took the opportunity to launch a pair of Moto-compatible Bluetooth wireless headsets (Moto H800 and Moto H601).

In keeping with its marketing thrust, Moto also staged a mini fashion show featuring female models wearing creations by Amanda Cherry. The South African designer fashioned gowns in satin, taffeta and organza that supposedly mirrored the two new phones.

FROM Cape Town to the world

SOUTH African models, in Amanda Cherry creations, show off the latest must-haves.

CRANBERRY-RED Moto RIZR

MOTO H601

Thanks to its glossy, "vacuum-metalized" finish, said Wicks, vice president and director of Moto's consumer experience design, the new phones remind people of everyday objects found either in their houses, purses and places of work. The KRZR, in particular, comes with a pair of jewel-like hinges.

"The new line basically takes the best of the PEBL and the RAZR and bring them together in one product," said Wicks. "It takes the soft-touch feel on the phone's back that you get from the PEBL to give your hands a compelling fit. We've also done a number of first in terms of innovative finishes on the outside."

Depending on whom you talk to, some women who saw the new gadgets were reportedly reminded of their compacts and makeup kits. A photographer who saw this reporter's phone (a cobalt-blue KRZR) likened it to a sports car's glossy finish. Still, others were reminded of lighters.

Fashion statements

Mobile phones, of course, have become an essential part of our lives. And whether we like it or not, they've also become fashion statements. Moto's new babies will initially come in such colors as cobalt blue, licorice black and raspberry red.

"Such reactions mark the maturing of the industry," said Stewart, Moto's marketing director of high-growth markets, which includes the Philippines. "People have gotten used to having the basics. They're now demanding more from technology."

In a similar vein, he added, not a few people are far from satisfied with just one good watch. It's now common to see people choosing from at least five timepieces depending on their mood and the occasion.

"Our category is moving in the same direction," he said. "It won't come as a surprise if some people now have several cell phones to choose from to match their wardrobes."

Oddly enough, this trend cuts across races, religions and cultures. Every country, regardless of GNP, has its share of "style-driven" people. The only thing that varies per market, said Stewart, is the number of "discerning" consumers that makes up such a high-end segment.

That's why despite the seeming inability of most Africans to afford Moto's "high-tier" products, the company's executives deemed the continent an ideal place to stage its latest launch. No matter where you go, there will always be somebody out there willing to spend a substantial amount of money on a fancy cell phone.

"Africa, a huge continent with about a billion people, is vitally important to us," said Stewart. "A lot of people here have never made a phone call. Such a situation falls under our initiative to connect the unconnected."

Four principles

Moto's latest efforts at R&D, of course, weren't based on any whimsical or romantic notions. If anything, they were based primarily on trends and what majority of its customers want.

NEIL Stewart: "People have gotten used to the basics. They're now demanding more from technology."

THE AUTHOR with Moto marketing man Nick Mann and Filipino media colleague Therese Garceau

In turn, changes and improvements in its designs (which, at Moto, said Wicks, are far from superficial) are driven by technology and guided by four major principles: simplicity, honesty, richness and surprise. He summed up such a lofty ideal in two words: "no compromise."

"Simplicity is about the massive convergence of imaging, music, media consumption and browsing under this one device you carry with you all the time," said Wicks. "It's also about simplicity in terms of design and operations."

Moto executives, for instance, are well aware of how popular texting is in Asia, especially the Philippines, that they've made steps to streamline the process.

"The Philippines is one of our most important markets in Southeast Asia," said Stewart. "It's a big, young market. You're still the texting kings and queens of the world."

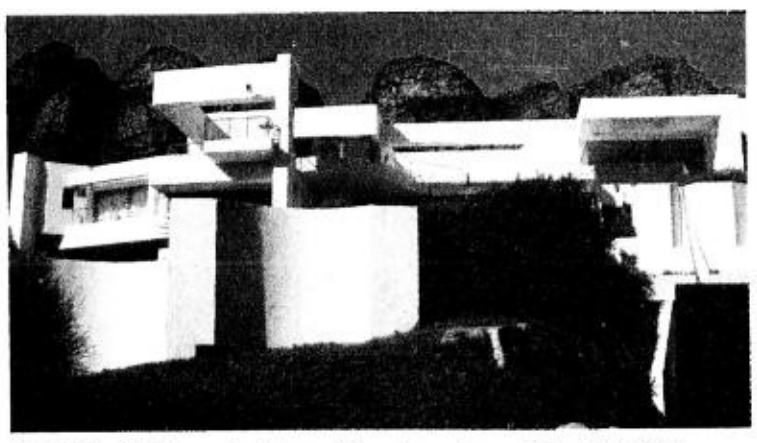
Nokia's market share in the Philippines is still quite large, he conceded. Moto reportedly ranks second locally, but Stewart declined to confirm this. With these new products, he hoped "to be able to squeeze them [the competition] out."

Despite stiff competition from other brands, Moto's status as a leader in technology and manufacturer of durable and dependable communication devices has remained intact. What it has shed off successfully is its reputation for producing phones that seemed quite difficult to operate.

The long-time Nokia user will probably have to make some adjustments when he switches to a Moto unit, but he doesn't have to be a rocket scientist or a clairvoyant to figure out and remember a few minor changes. Practice, even when it comes to cell-phone use, makes perfect.

Moto's phones are also synonymous to "surprise" because its features are designed to make people happy, said Wicks. The company's executives as well as cell-phone crazy and fashion-forward Filipinos will soon find out if they have enough reasons to feel happy as Motorola's new lookers hit the local market sometime next month.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



MOTO holds its product launch in a two-story, minimalist affair in Resolution, a posh Cape Town neighborhood by the Atlantic.

MOTO executives and their guests have dinner at Simon's, a winery-cum-restaurant at Groot Constantia.

MOTO executives have a blast with their new fashion accessories.

SOUTH African designer Amanda Cherry with models wearing her Moto-inspired creations

JIM WICKES: "The new line takes the best of the PEBL and the RAZR and brings them together in one product."

Rockability

Style tip: Boot-cut jeans and heavy metal vamp up a basic tank.

By Grace Lim
Contributor

JOIN THE WORLD BAND wagon and get a taste of rock 'n' roll via "Rock Star: Supernova." Crank up the boob tube, do an air guitar or sing along to your favorite rocker. You may have the karaoke talent, but do you have the rock-star style?

You don't really want to look like Yazmo, right? But glamour groupie Brooke Burke with her rock-and-roll look—long wavy messy unbaked bod, luscious lips and bad-girl style—right vintage tee, denim dash, pipes and minis—now there's a rock-star channel.

Tough chick Gretchen Wyler says everything in the 80s—the boys and the trophy. So rock on with Levi's Lady Style collection.

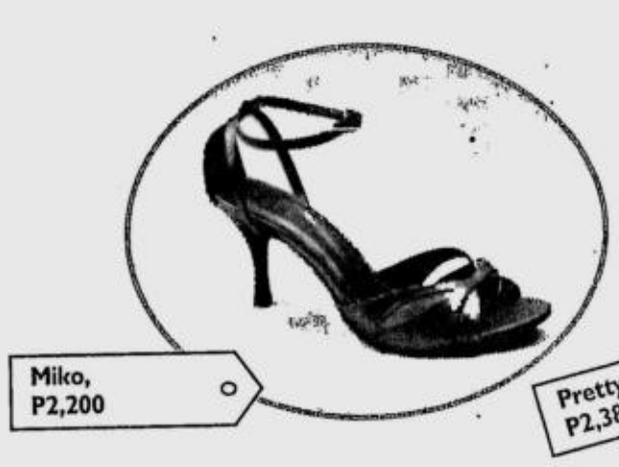
Style tip: Hit the high note of rock-star style with skinny jeans.

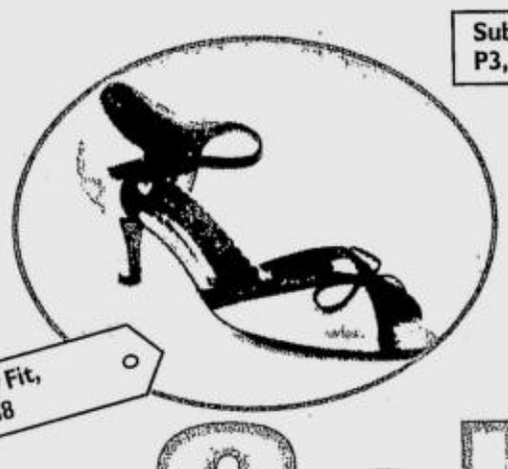
Style tip: Pink and lace add feminine touch to accessories hardware.

Style tip: Hot-to-trot minis get amplified with a voluminous...

Style tip: Be a divine diva with shorts paired with an immaculate white top.

Style tip: Black and w... never off-key.


Miko, P2,200


Pretty Fit, P2,388

Substance, P3,197

Pretty Fit, P2,180

Sole show-offs

Jenni Epperson

THEY SAY YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A man from the shoes he wears, but the same does not apply to women. Girls are more of role players. We don't just show all our cards—the drama queen in us simply won't allow it. We want the whole shebang! Which makes us the lovely creatures that we really are.

Our accessories are our arsenal when it comes to bagging a job (black D'Orsay), hooking a guy (fuchsia Do Me Heels) or, mainly, annoying our enemies (this season's printed Wellies).

While it may be easy to decipher your man, it's a trick to decode your newfound BFF (Best Friend Forever). Let her lose sleep over your latest show-off shoes. That's the only way to know she's "The One"—when she's sincerely happy for your new acquisition and is never insecure enough to get the same pair... with your permission, of course.

INQUIRER Fashion scoured the malls for the latest Fab Finds. These cuties are fabulously inexpensive, too, and worth testing your friendship over.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

Trunk Show, P1,150

Trunk Show, P1,150

People Are People, P1,799

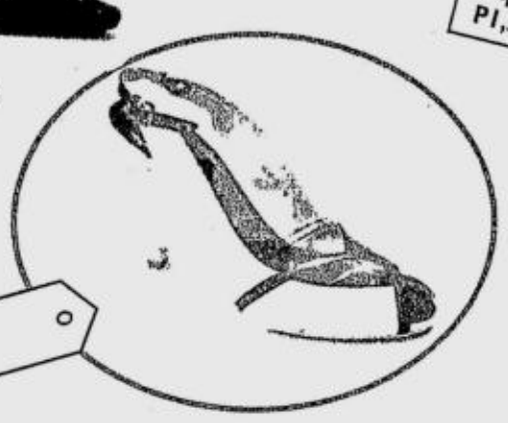
PHOTOGRAPHY MARLONE RUBIO

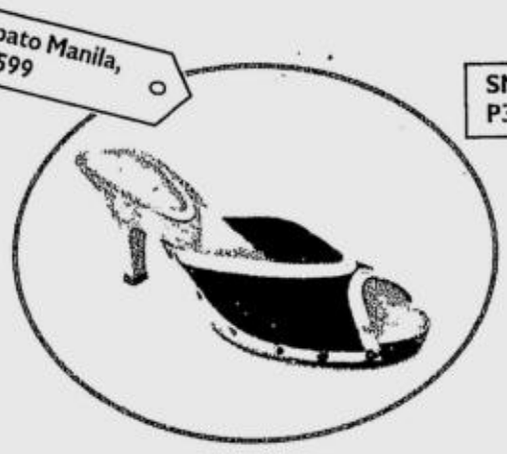
Pretty Fit, P2,580

Scala, P1,095

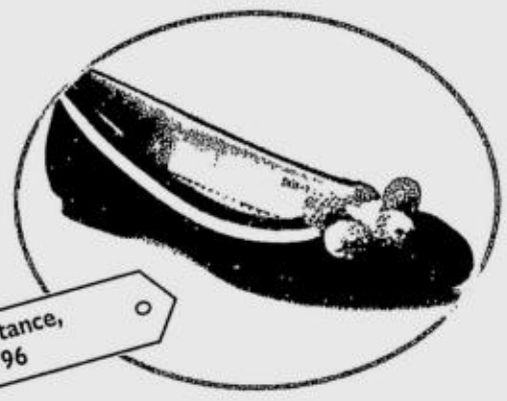
Sapato Manila, P850

Pretty Fit, P2,580


Schu, P1,599


Sapato Manila, P1,599

SM Parisian Jr., P359.75


Substance, P2,796

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

BEAUTY

Future perfect

By Pam Pastor

Feast your eyes on the collaborative artwork of hairstylist Jeoff Moran, makeup maven Abbygale Arenas-de Leon and ace fotog Jun de Leon

WHILE SOME ARTISTS ARE HAPPY WITH their paints and canvases, some choose to take another creative path—making artwork out of pixels, grains of rice, coffee stains or found objects.

Jeoff Moran of Emphasis Salon is on an entirely different artistic road. He has chosen hair as his ultimate canvas. With his deft fingers and trained hands, he spins masterpieces out of people's locks, creating memorable photo-worthy statements.

Abbygale Arenas-de Leon is an artist in her own right, masterfully using airbrush makeup to transform people and to produce surreal images that you thought only belonged in your imagination.

Jeoff and Abby worked together to create a series of futuristic-themed looks, photographed by lens master Jun de Leon. The photographs, styled by Danny Katalbas and digitally enhanced by Oliver de Leon, present a look into the future of beauty.

Feast your eyes on some of the photographs, featured on this page.

Edgy aliens, nymph-like jellyfish and attitude-rocking brides—this is the future staring at you.

PHOTOGRAPHY
JUN DE LEON
DIGITAL IMAGING
OLIVER DE LEON
MAKEUP
ABBYGALE ARENAS-DE LEON
HAIR
JEOFF MORAN
STYLING
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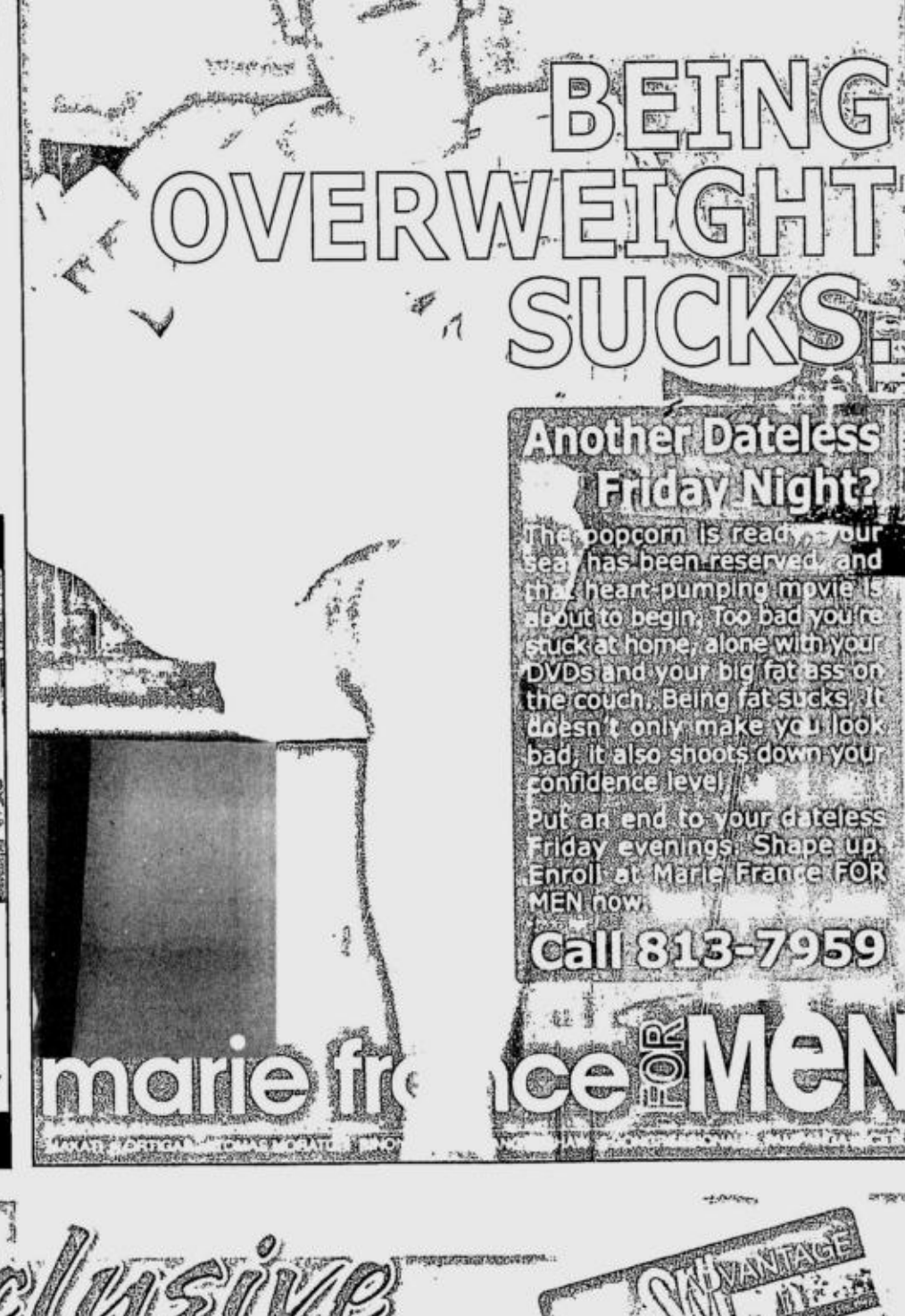

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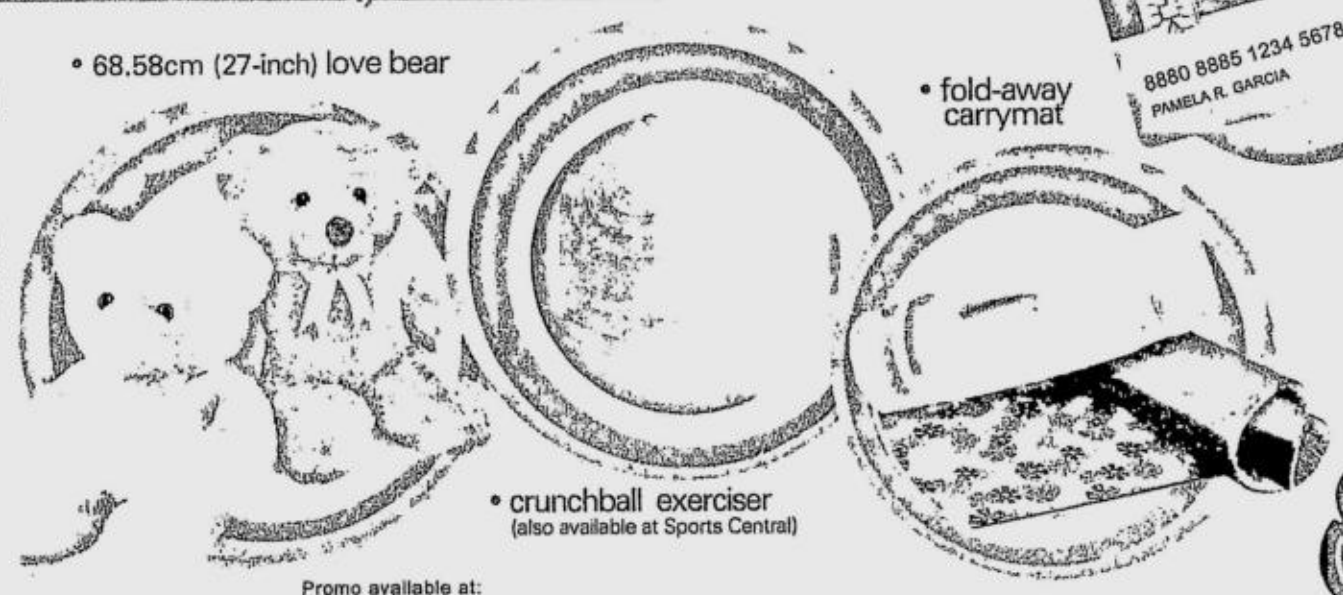

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2006

FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS

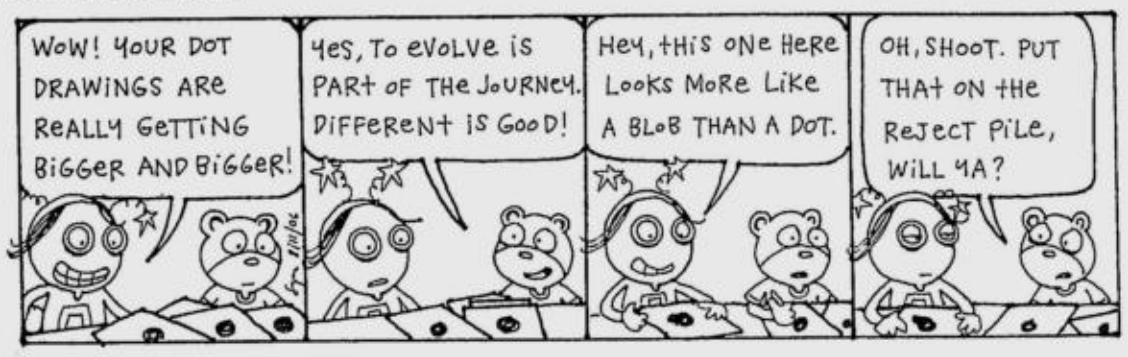
BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

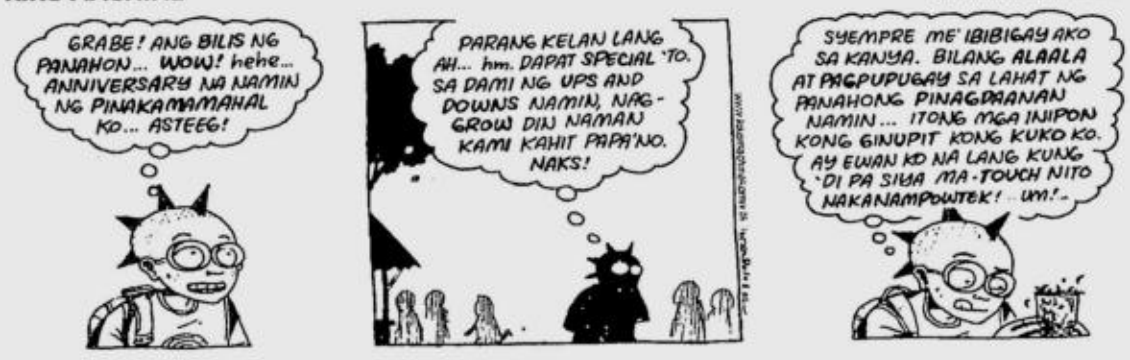


DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

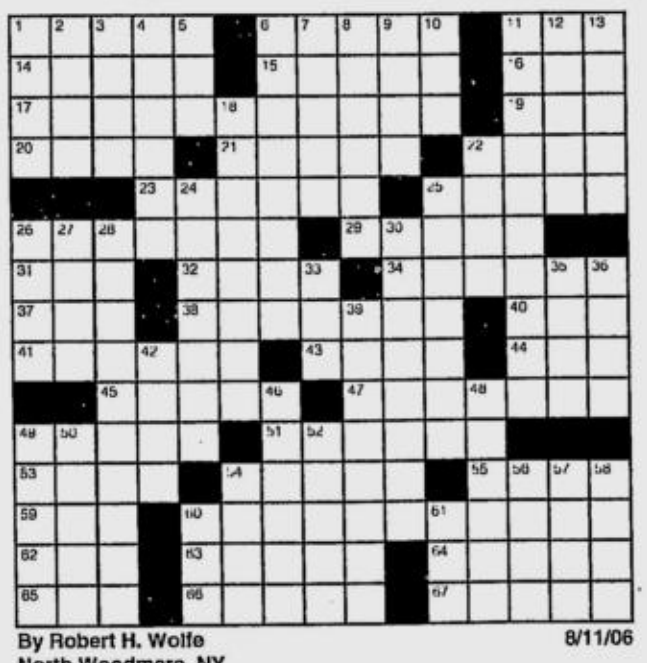
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

8/11/06

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61 Actress/director Lupino

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	R	S	O	■	E	M	I	R	■	C	R	A	B
A	M	O	U	R	■	N	O	N	E	■	H	A	L	E
B	A	B	I	E	S	D	O	N	T	■	I	D	L	E
U	N	I	T	■	O	I	L	■	R	E	L	I	E	F
■	■	N	E	E	D	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	S
A	S	H	■	T	A	E	■	E	C	U	■	■	■	■
B	O	O	T	H	S	■	E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E
L	O	O	S	■	■	B	U	T	■	■	A	N	I	L
E	N	D	P	A	P	E	R	■	T	R	I	N	E	S
■	■	■	■	R	U	T	■	P	I	A	■	E	R	A
I	S	T	I	L	L	S	E	E	T	H	E	M	■	■
S	T	E	N	O	S	■	S	A	L	■	L	E	I	S
L	E	E	S	■	A	T	T	H	E	B	E	A	C	H
E	R	N	E	■	T	R	E	E	■	A	G	R	E	E
T	E	S	T	■	E	A	R	N	■	D	Y	A	D	S

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8/11/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Justice matters to you. You seek out the truth of any situation. Not only that, you're a shrewd judge of people. This allows you to research answers for personal or professional reasons. You have a strong personal presence. This year, you will say goodbye to something or let something go in order to create room for something new to enter.
Birthdate of: Hollywood Hulk Hogan, actor/wrestler; Alex Haley, writer; Mike Douglas, TV talk host.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't try to manipulate anyone emotionally today. Furthermore, don't let anyone try to do this to you. This kind of underhanded technique can easily arise today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's easy to have a misunderstanding with a friend or a member of a group today. People are quick to jump to the wrong conclusions. This, in turn, makes them lash out needlessly. (Oops.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Avoid disagreements with parents, bosses, the police and authority figures. It's just not worth it today. Don't even go there. It will only get nasty.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Don't let someone manipulate you with a religious or political argument. Someone might try to really stretch things to make a point. What this person is doing isn't wholesome.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Don't try to collect money from someone who owes you. In fact, don't try to collect anything today. People are inclined to feel territorial and uncooperative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Avoid disagreements with partners and close friends. They will quickly disintegrate into personal accusations and guilt trips. Keep to the high road.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A strong, destructive energy exists today. However, you can change this energy by using it to clean up something or get rid of what is no longer needed (especially garbage).

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Parents must be patient with children today. Out of frustration and weariness, one might be tempted to go on a power trip. Remember that children learn by following a role model.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Avoid disagreements with family members today. Instead, work to clean up laundry and bathroom areas. Get rid of garbage. Attend to repairs at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're tempted to try to persuade others to agree with you today. But what's the point? I think you should lighten up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might see a better way of making money today. Or perhaps you see a new application for something you own. Forget feelings of jealousy or envy. Just work with what you've got.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you take a look in the mirror today, you will see what it is that you really want. This is not to say you will get it, but at least you will know what it is.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				3		2	9	
7					5	6		
5	3			2				
	1							
2		9				1		8
							6	
				8			1	7
		3	4					2
	4	5		1				

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/11

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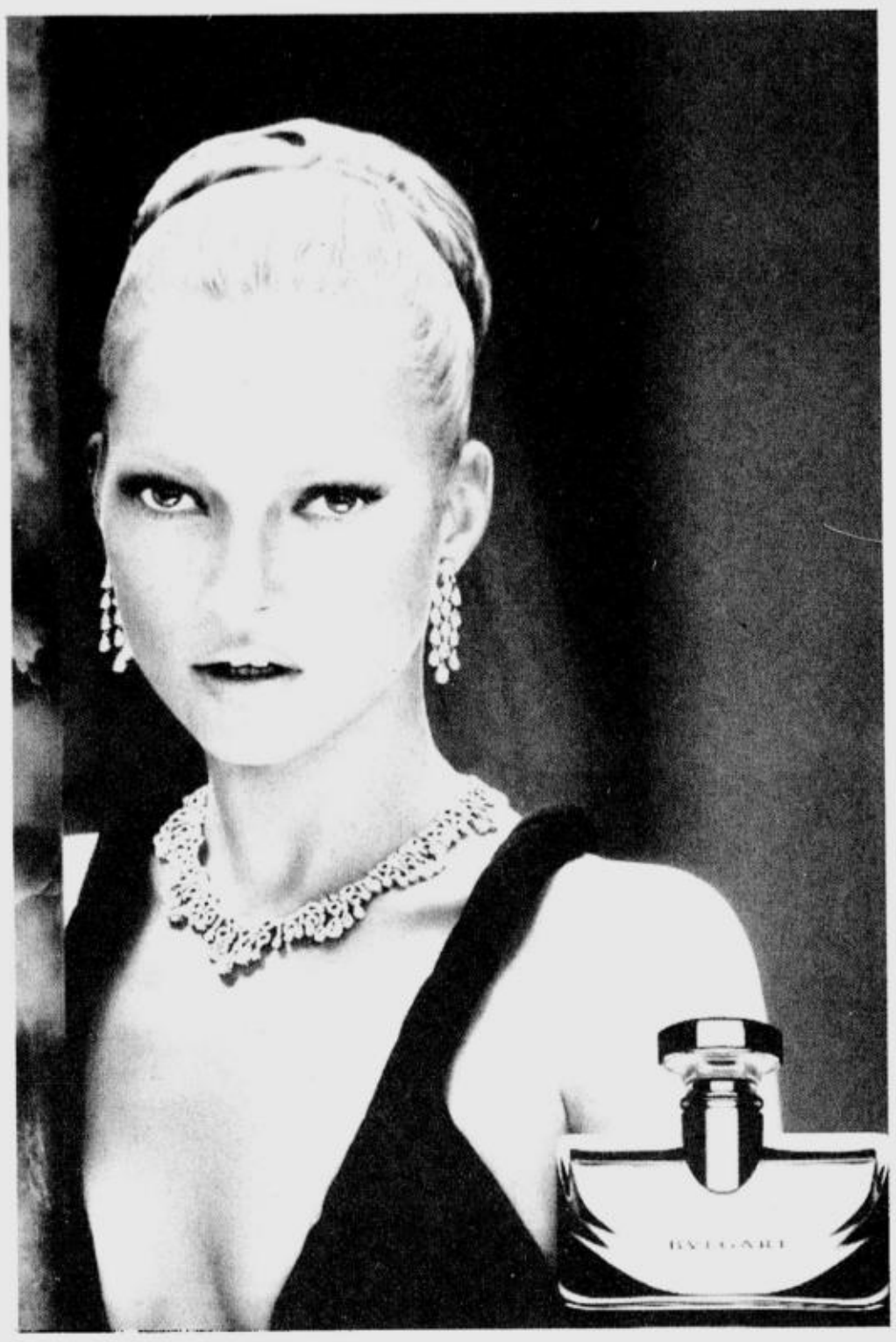
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	8	7	3	2	5	6	1	9
9	6	3	7	4	1	5	2	8
5	1	2	6	8	9	3	4	7
2	5	1	4	6	8	7	9	3
8	7	9	2	5	3	4	6	1
3	4	6	9	1	7	2	8	5
1	2	8	5	7	6	9	3	4
7	3	4	8	9	2	1	5	6
6	9	5	1	3	4	8	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★



Getting scent-imental

WOW, WHAT PERFUME are you using?" That's one of the questions I most often ask my friends. I find a person's choice of perfume very interesting, but the truth is, as much as you pick your scent, it also picks you.

Most of the time, after I ask the "perfume question," I end up trying the perfume myself. And truth is, it's only 10 percent of the time that it also smells good on me.

Scent is something very personal, and has the power to make people remember you even if you are not there.

Last Aug. 4, people from the press were flown to Hong Kong for the unveiling of new fragrances by Bulgari.

There was a storm and the plane had a hard time landing. The wind was so strong that, going to the event, I didn't even bother opening my umbrella, for fear that it would be blown away.

So after a "mahangin ba sa labas" moment, which if I had been asked I would have answered with "hindi, bagyo lang naman," I was pleasantly surprised to find myself in a black room with clips from various old movies being projected on one side of the wall.

I stood in front just watching for about 20 minutes, while my companions excitedly called out the movie titles. The venue was dressed up so elegantly. Well, it was a Bulgari event, after all.

The organizers also put beautiful pictures of the perfumes' ingredients, and two lovely ladies with bottles went around asking us to sample the fragrances. The highlight of the night was the new commercial for the scent with Kate Moss as the new endorser.

I personally love Bulgari scents, and now it has three new scents to offer, plus another three that have been re-launched. Take your pick and enjoy!

E-mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

Pour Homme Extreme

Pour Homme Extreme, the more intense version of Pour Homme, maintains the original scent's classic yet modern character, and is designed for men who prefer a stronger fragrance.

Deep and vibrant, Pour Homme Extreme immediately unveils its strong soul emanating from grapefruit and vetiver. This tingling accent naturally evolves to musk, the last enveloping touch. The result is a vivid scent for a bright and natural elegance.

Pour Homme Soir

An irresistible blend of sensuality and elegance, Pour Homme Soir is the new scent which completes the Bulgari collection of men's fragrances. Dedicated to a man in search of a classic evening fragrance, Pour Homme Soir is distinguished by fresh yet intense notes. The unmistakable darjeeling tea mingles with bergamot, suggesting a light sensation that evolves to a surprising accent: the papyrus. This fascinating and seductive nuance finally blends with amber, thus creating the richest essence of this collection.

Pour Homme

Sophisticated and precious Pour Homme is a classic yet contemporary fragrance, fresh and luminous, dedicated to a refined man who expresses his elegance with charisma and spontaneity.

The unmistakable aroma of the darjeeling tea characterizes the fresh and tingling top notes. After this first natural sensation, a simple yet intense heart unfolds, enriched by the dry accents of guaiac wood.

The fragrance ends with a musky base that conveys a pure and essential feeling and discloses a natural and deep character.

Voile de Jasmin

Pour Femme—fresh and soulfully light, Voile de Jasmin expresses the essence of refined and sensitive femininity, evoked by the sensual grace of its predominant note, the jasmine flower.

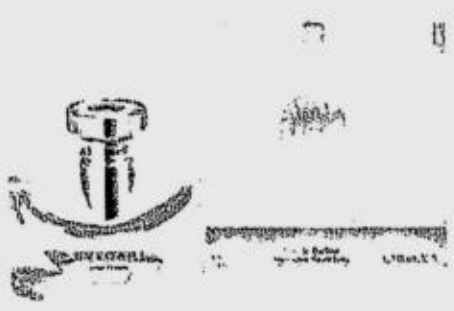
As soon as Voile de Jasmin unfolds, the scent suggests its luminous and tingling character thanks to the Mimosa of Grasse and bergamot. The enveloping heart of Voile de Jasmin unveils the sweet freshness and transparency of Sambac jasmine, which, combined with prelude rose and wild lily of the valley, adds a further velvety and seductive touch.

Florentine iris and musky base accords complete the fragrance with a transparent and delicate floral dry-down.

Pour Femme

The great classic fragrance of Bulgari's tradition, Pour Femme is now presented in a new package that underlies its precious and luminous character. A tribute to the woman who wishes to rediscover luxury characterized by understatement and absolute quality, Pour Femme reaches its fullness thanks to a harmonious blend of essences.

Its bouquet opens with fresh and crystalline top notes, which then develop into a flowered middle note where the dominant flavor of Sambac jasmine, gathered in the first hours of the morning and thus even more suave, mixes into delicately sensual aromas, such as Mimosa of Grasse. Prelude rose, used for the first time in a perfume, underlines the fragrance's timeless character, while violet adds liveliness and vitality. These delicately fade into the bottom notes, where powdery and musky aromas, including Florentine iris, prevail.

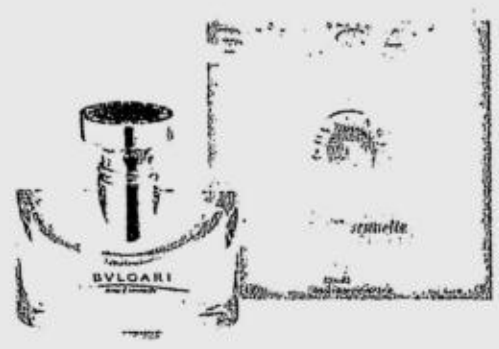


Rose Essentielle

Enveloping and sensual, Rose Essentielle is the seductive interpretation of Pour Femme dedicated to an extremely sophisticated, charming and elegant woman. A precious homage to the most passionate flower, Rose Essentielle blends exclusive and refined aromas.

The fragrance opens with the full deepness of the ottoman rose merging with the pureness of prelude rose. This combination is exceptionally sensual and perfectly fuses the delicate lightness of Sambac jasmine, fruity notes of blackberry and refined tones of violet leaves.

Finally, sandalwood gives Rose Essentielle its last dense nuance, unveiling the sensual aroma of patchouli while disclosing the scent's most unexpected and charming soul.



Ria Francisco-Prieto

'Wow, what perfume are you using?'

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Overcoming dentist phobia

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

A GREAT SMILE DOES HEAPS FOR ONE'S sex appeal. Essentials for a "hot" smile are great teeth and fresh breath.

Dental hygiene is essential to looking, staying and being gorgeous. But the truth is—I am terrified of the dentist. I can withstand great pain and join the "Beauty Procedure Fear Factor" in the name of face-body treatment and enhancement, but my Waterloo has always been the dentist.

My last cleaning was about seven years ago. After that, I would cancel appointments or simply bolt out of the clinic when my name was called.

As I was flossing recently, my swollen gums started to bleed and hardened plaque flaked off in chunks. I checked out my teeth and saw the stains and buildup crowding out my gums. There was no way around it and I knew I had to see a dentist soon.

Visions of cavities, gum disease, receding gums, rotten teeth, root canals and the dreaded pain swirled inside my head.

But it occurred to me that all the children I knew didn't raise a fuss when a dental appointment was mentioned. If they could do it, I figured, so could I. Besides, going through life toothless is so not hot!

The day before my birthday I took a deep breath and walked into iSmile Pediatric Dental Center at Fort Bonifacio Global City, where they cater to children 0-19 years old, and adults as well. This is a perfect setup for parents who accompany their children who can make better use of their waiting time by having their teeth checked on and cleaned.

The clinic itself is a mix of pastel and bright colors with toys and books to keep the waiting children amused at the reception area.

The treatment room is very spacious and clean unlike those crammed close rooms of yore that made me feel trapped.

State-of-the-art powder-blue dental chairs mold to support the contours of your neck, back and legs recline down to full bed level.

I chose US-certified pediatric dentist Dr. Paul Abaya over a regular adult dentist because I needed someone who would humor me and soothe me out of my phobia.

Light touch

Dr. Paul, who trained in pediatric dentistry in the US, looks very young and angelic with a serene expression and a calm soothing voice any child would be at ease with. And I was no exception.

My instruction for him was to treat me the way he would his usual patients aged 0 to 8 years old so I could also road-test his skills for other kids (yeah right!).

I was asked what my favorite color was and they even accommodated my two choices as I donned a lavender bib and a green hat for Mr. Thirsty—the high-pressure straw that sucks excess saliva.

Dental hygiene is essential to looking and feeling gorgeous, so, if you must, go to a pediatric clinic

Dr. Paul thoroughly tackled seven years of calculus deposits and caffeine stains with hands light enough to be painless but firm enough to get results.

His instruments are also more high-tech and efficient than the ones I remembered, so less pressure was needed for maximum results.

My cleaning had to be divided to two sessions so my gums would have time to heal. I had no problem coming back because Dr. Paul's hands were pretty light.

In the fluoride toothpaste raffle, I got bubble-gum flavor.

My experience was very pleasant that I actually look forward to going to the dentist for my fillings and regular checkups.

The best part is that I can't seem to stop smiling because my teeth no longer make me insecure and my breath is so much fresher.

Conquering my fear, I now feel like a full-fledged beauty guru—tackling skin from head to toe, hair, anti aging/weightloss/detox supplements, figure-enhancing treatments, and now even teeth!

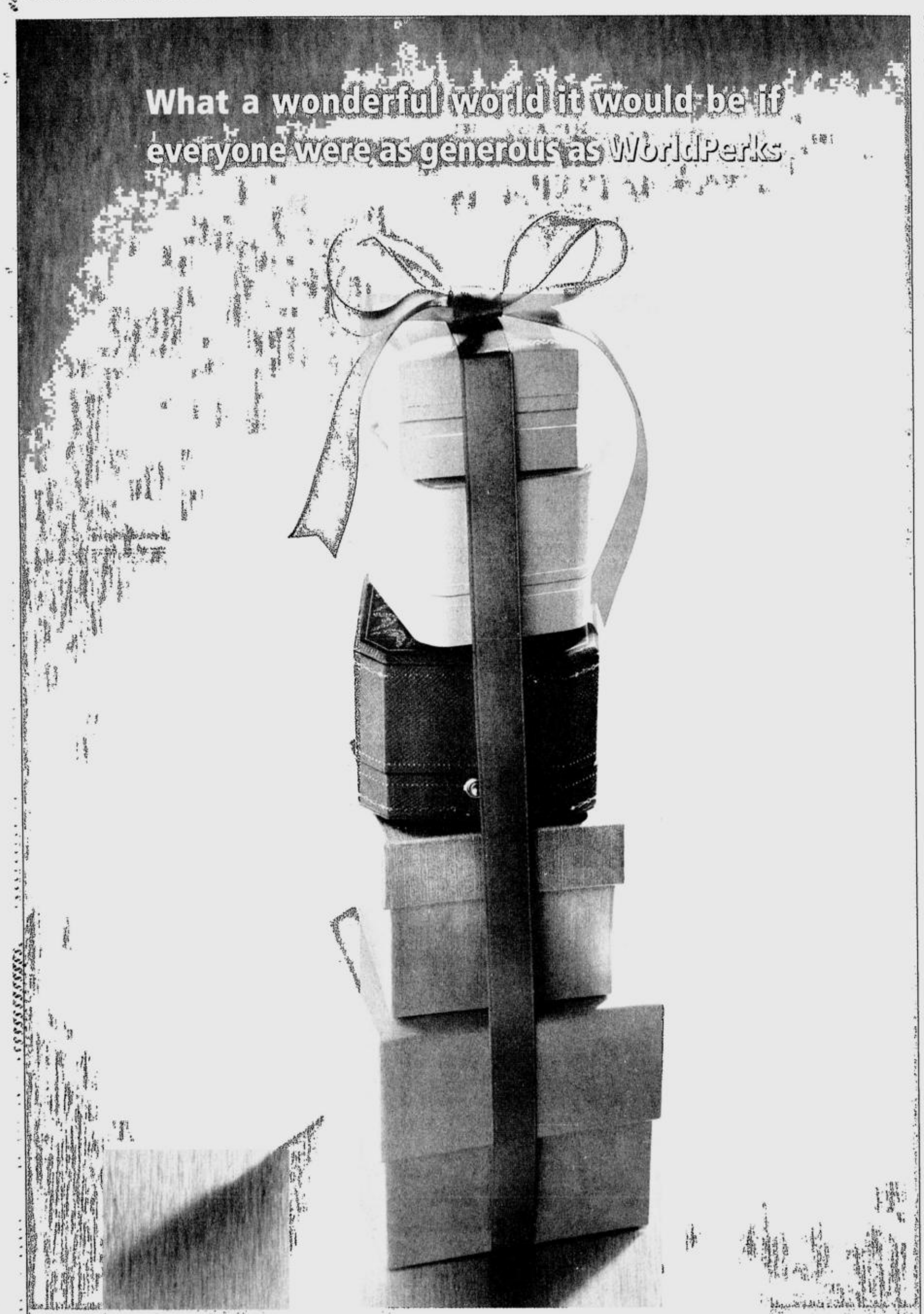
As for the prices, I have more expensive facials and bikini waxes. Plain Prophylaxis is P900, with fluoride coating, P1,250.

Take advantage by grabbing a flyer on their counter to get a free dental checkup for your child on his or her first visit to iSmile.

If you're self-conscious like me, go in the morning to early afternoon to avoid the after-school rush at 3 p.m. onwards of older kids giving me puzzled looks as if to ask: "Where's your child?" In my usual time slot, I have seen senior citizens and good-looking singles in their 20s and 30s.

For inquiries and appointments, call 8921467. iSmile Pediatric Dental Center is at G/F Unit A, Spanish Bay Bonifacio Ridge Condominium, 1st Avenue, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Mikee wants 2 more kids, preferably girls

Text and photos by Nini Valera

CAVINTI, LAGUNA—Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski was still nursing a neck injury when she reported for her first day of taping over the weekend for the GMA 7 *fantaserye* "Majika."

Last December, the champion equestrienne fell from her horse, Leap of Faith, owned by Toni Leviste, while competing at the Sea Games.

"I was already strong last week," Mikee related. "But I carried one of my sons and the pain returned."

That she hadn't entirely healed was her fault, she said. "I was stubborn. I didn't see a doctor until the pain became more frequent. I wore a neck brace occasionally. I should be taking better care of myself."

But all that could not keep her away. "I still ride," Mikee said. "I feed [my horse] and take care of them, anyway. So I ride them for exercise. I need to be fit. Instead of going to the gym, I ride."

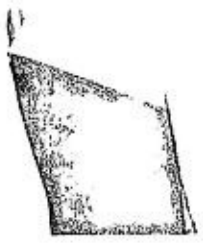
Her eldest son, Robbie, 6, by Pasig City Rep. Dodot Jaworski, shares this passion.

"But I don't encourage him too much," said Mikee. "It's a dangerous sport. And if he doesn't own a horse, he'd feel disappointed."

She revealed that her own parents, Peping and Tingting Cojuangco, had initially objected to her choice of sport. "They gave in after they saw how determined I was."

She got her first horse when she was 14. Now she has several, but

MIKEE/ F-5



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4 MIAMI VICE MTRCB R-13 1.00 4.00 7.00, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE ANT BULLY MTRCB GP 1.00, 3.15, 5.30 7.45 10.00

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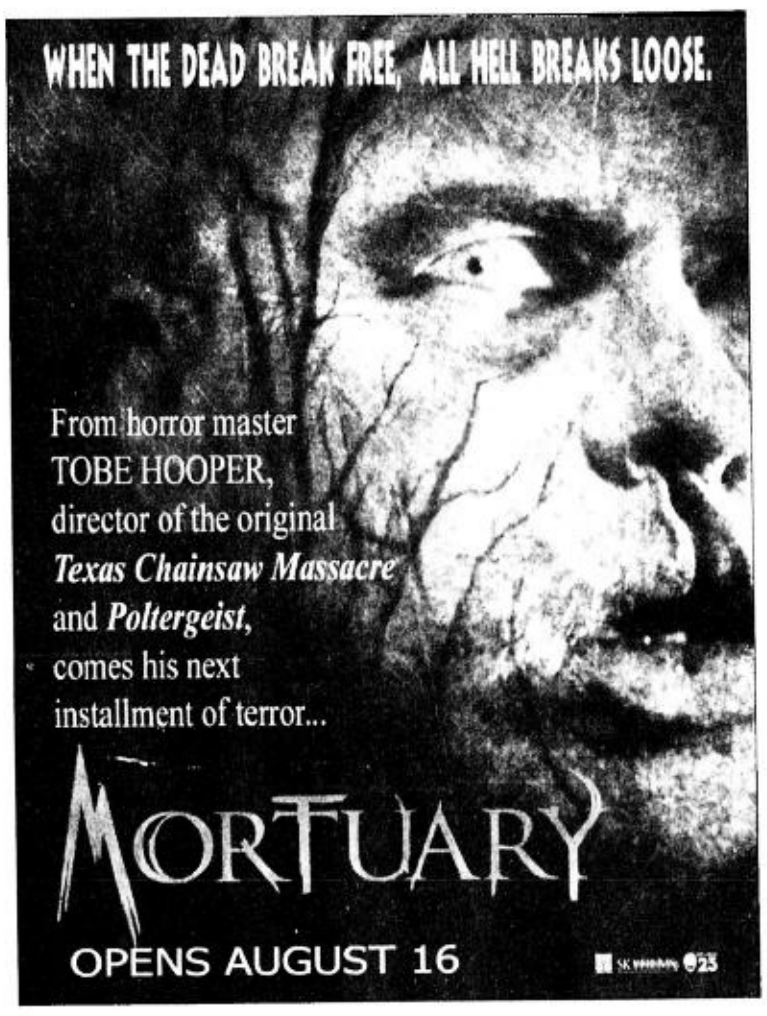

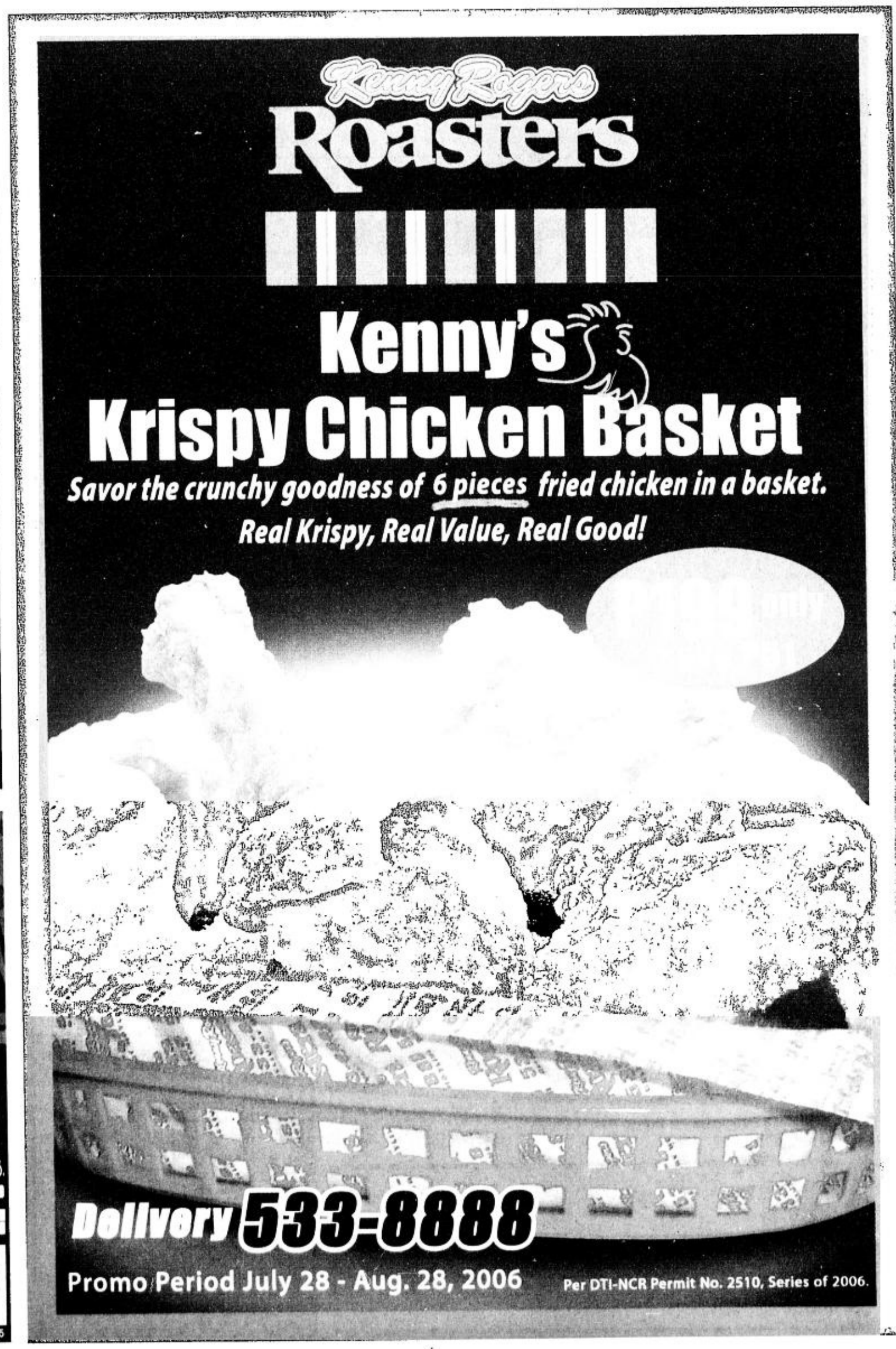

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ANT BULLY G 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	CLICK PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	STORM BREAKER PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:10
SUKOB PG13 1:15,3:25,5:35,7:45,10:00	THE BREAK-UP R13 2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	MIAMI VICE R13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10

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CINEMA 5 CLICK 11:05, 1:50, 4:30 7:10, 9:50 PG-13

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GALLERIA 632-8116

1 MIAMI VICE • THX
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

2 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

4 STORMBREAKER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 LADY IN THE WATER
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

7 THE BREAK-UP
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

9 JUST MY LUCK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE ANT BULLY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7800 to 18

1 CLICK

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:50 3:10 6:20 9:30

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
11:45 1:50 3:55 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 STORMBREAKER
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

5 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE ANT BULLY
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

7 MIAMI VICE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8190

1 THE BREAK-UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 THE ANT BULLY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 SUKOB
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

4 MIAMI VICE
12:55 3:30 6:10 9:00

5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

6 JUST MY LUCK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9.00

7 CLICK
11:05 1.35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 STORMBREAKER
11:50 2 10 4:30 6:50 9.10

NOVALICHES 936-3231 / 936-3228-30

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 WOLF CREEK
4 SUKOB

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576 PIONEER 687-3378

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Kindly answer all questions completely.
Fill in the missing letters to complete the right answer

1. The creator of the Miami Vice TV Series.
M _ C H _ E L M _ N N
2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie.
_ O L _ N E A _ R _ L L
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
R _ C A _ D _ I _ _ R S
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
S H _ N _ E. S I O
5. Miami is in what US State?
F L . R . D A

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4 SUKOB

1 SUKOB
2 LOVE WRECKED
3 CLICK
4 CHAOS

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2 THE ANT BULLY
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WILD ORCHID 2
4 SUKOB

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1 WOLF CREEK
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

1 TAMARA
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 WOLF CREEK
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

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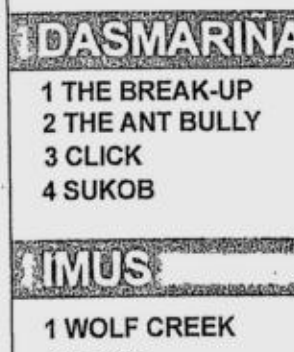
1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 WOLF CREEK
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
6 WILD ORCHID 2

1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 LADY IN THE WATER



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2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE
PREMIERE
ANT BULLY

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Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

stармall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK
5 STORMBREAKER

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 6504265, 5433994
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2

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1 WOLF CREEK
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB

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SUKOB
CHAOS
RESERVED
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1 STORMBREAKER
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3 ANT BULLY
4 CLICK
5 THE PRODUCERS
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
7 SUKOB
8 JUST MY LUCK
9 THE BREAK UP
10 SUKOB

Blue Wave
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1 SUKOB
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CLICK
4 RESERVED

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
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1 MIAMI VICE
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
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5 WILD ORCHID-2

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1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 TAMARA
4 RESERVED

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1 SUKOB
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2 ANT BULLY

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2 LAKE HOUSE

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2 CLICK
3 STORMBREAKER
4 SUKOB

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2 WILD ORCHIDS
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4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

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1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK

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(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 NACHO LIBRE

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUSE-3

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1 CHAOS
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Lianas MovieCity
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1 SUKOB
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 CLICK
4 LOVEWRECKED
5 BANDIDAS

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1 DOMINO
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

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2 PARAISO SA GUBAT

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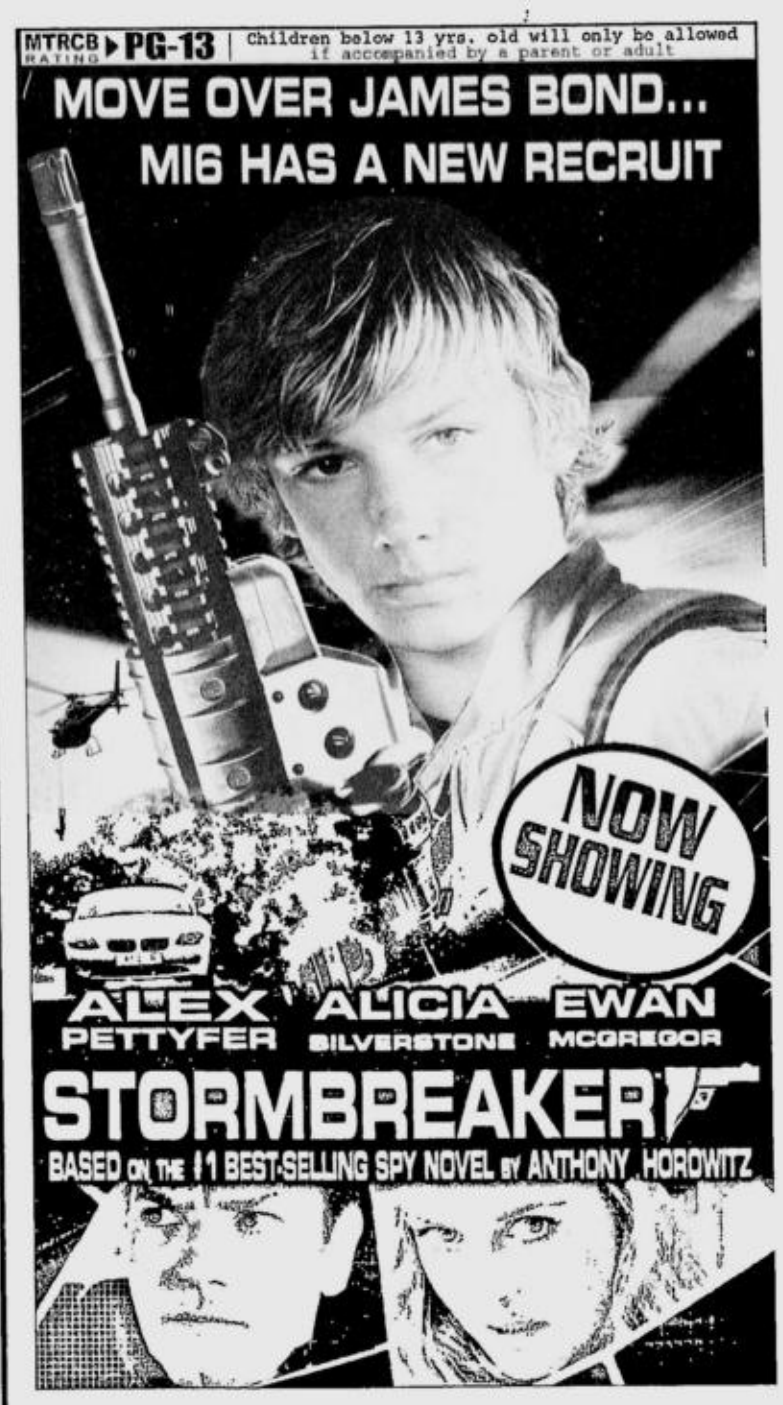

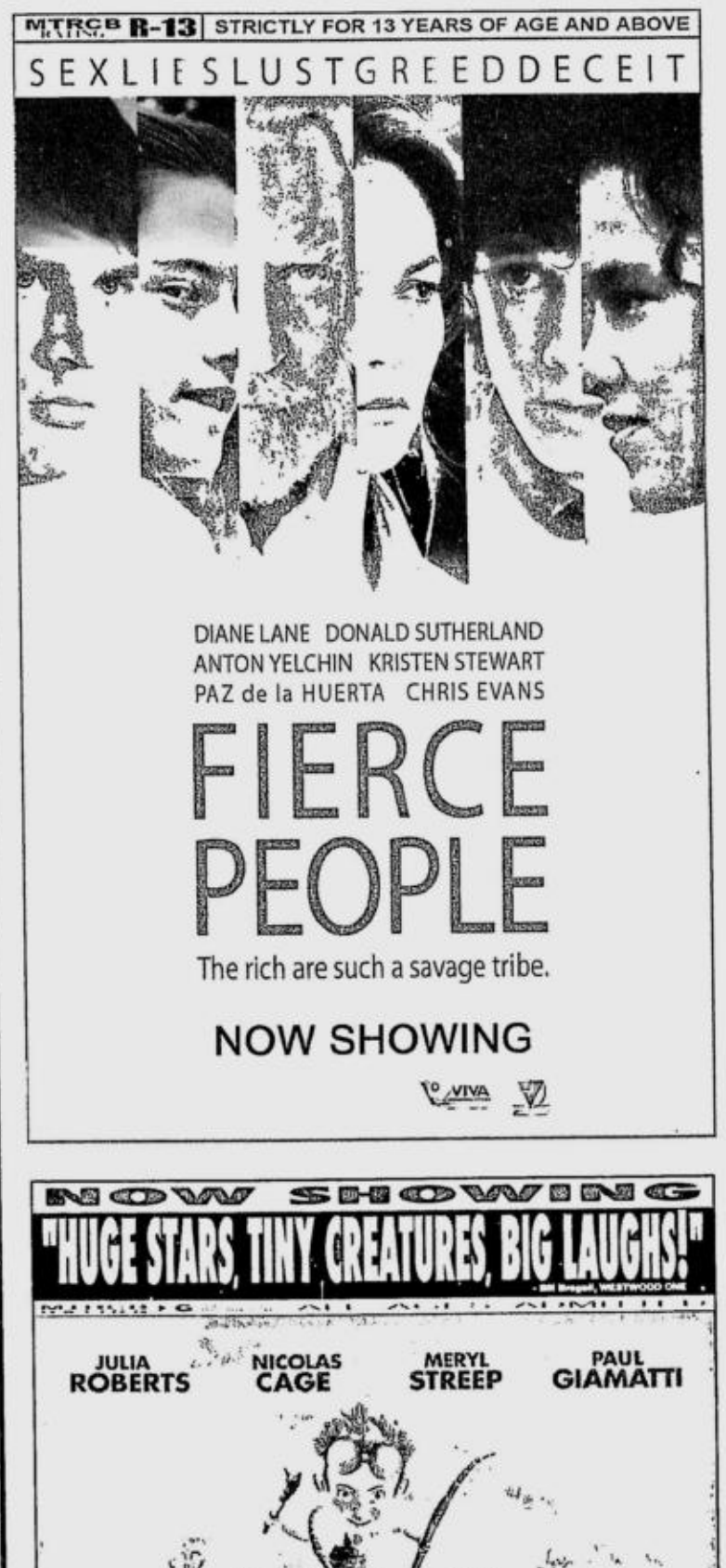

Fear without catharsis in 'Wolf Creek'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Viewers do need release from terror

IN THE AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK, REPORTS of "faceless" serial killers abound, madmen who take advantage of the area's empty highways and uncharted byways to trap the occasional traveler and subject their victim to horrendous torture before killing them.

What makes this scenario all the more shocking and terrifying is the fact that some of the murder cases have gone unsolved for years, and their perpetrators continue to add to their list of victims with impunity.

The current chiller, "Wolf Creek," is about one such "all-powerful" serial killer, a composite of actual murderers like **Ivan Milat** and **Bradley Murdoch**. Named Mick Taylor by writer-director **Grey McLean**, he has killed many hapless tourists and now sets his sights on three young backpackers.

In the guise of helping them get back to civilization after their car's engine conks out, he drives them to his place in the middle of nowhere in the dead of night, drugs them, and proceeds to torture and kill them to satisfy his psycho urges.

One of the two young women in the group manages to free herself, and courageously prevents Taylor from raping the other female victim. Sadly, however, her valiant effort only serves to postpone the inevitable.

The film is truly fear-inducing, because it's partly based on actual events, and its villain is so demonically powerful, and seemingly all-knowing. Try though they might to outwit him, his victims can't measure up to his evil brilliance.

The victims' helplessness strikes dread in the hearts of viewers, and the production's "fear factor" is further intensified by the filmmaker's astute use of camerawork, lighting and editing to subtly tighten the movie's noose of terror.

On the debit side, some of the victims take too long to react to the killer's actuations, or to flee from him.

One even watches some video footage taken by a previous victim. This informs viewers that Taylor is a serial killer, but compromises the film's sense of suspense and believability.

Another letdown is the fact that the movie provides no catharsis for viewers, as Taylor remains free to do his worst at film's end.

Sure, this is realistic, because some serial killers do go scot-free. But viewers also need a measure of release from terror—which "Wolf Creek" doesn't deign to give.

So, the film scores in the chills and thrills department, but it provides precious little surcease from the terror it has induced. How are viewers to take that? We mumbled and grumbled all the way home...

Piano concert

TONIGHT at the Philamlife Theater, pianist **Hiyas Hila** will perform with the Manila Symphony Orchestra. Repertoire: Mozart's Magic Flute overture and Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, K. 488, Beethoven's 32 Variations on an Original Theme, and Debussy's Images Book 1. Hila was adjudged winner of the University of Minnesota Concert and Elinor Bell Piano competitions. Call 900-7023.

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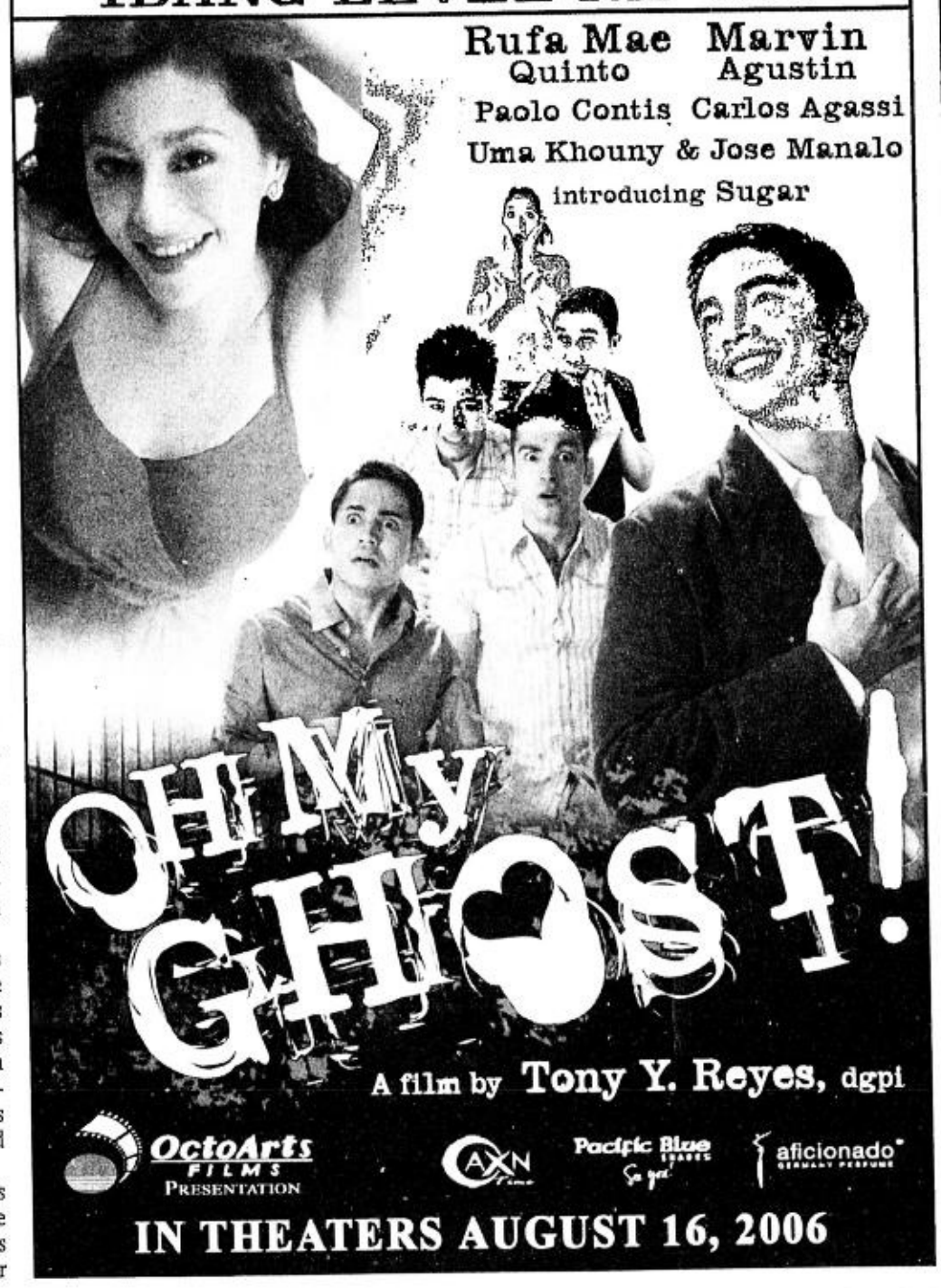


IN THEATERS AUGUST 16, 2006

'It didn't look like Pops'

From page F-5

show. On stage, we talked in codes while both of us were hysterically crying. It was so embarrassing. The audience was silent.

Pops said you promised her you'd never have a baby with another woman.

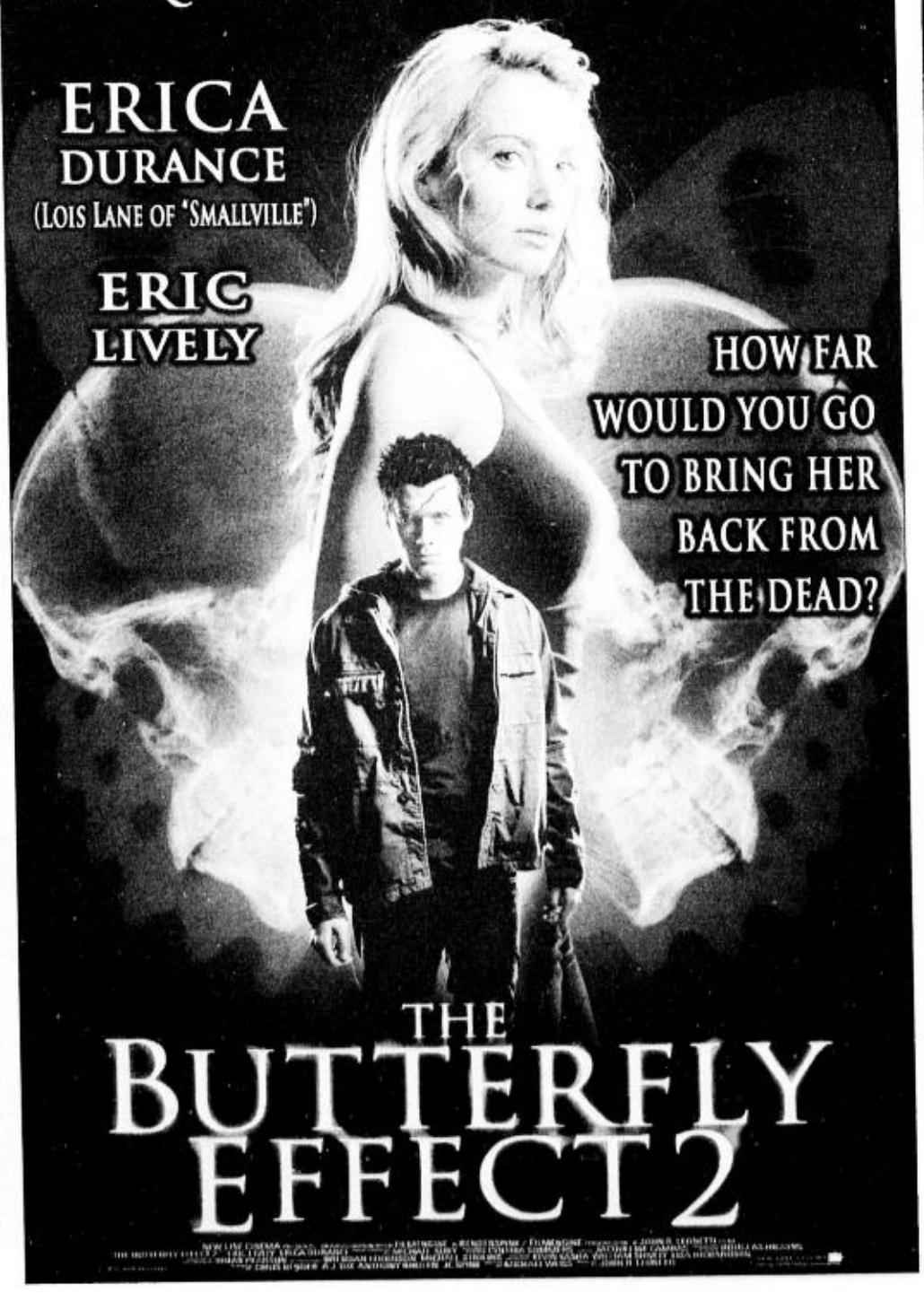
If she asked me that before, believe me, I wouldn't be having this baby with Katrina. I'd still be pursuing Pops. We've never ever made any conditions about the separation.

Since you're always away, is releasing an album in Manila something that you plan ahead?

I release three albums a year, sometimes. If I'd be gone for a long time, I'd tell EMI Records, "Maybe we should do one and put it on a shelf first." This is one of them, "Awit ng Puso."

I recorded this for only four days. My two hardest songs are "Sana'y Maghintay Ang Walang Hanggan" and "May Minamahal." My carrier single is "When I Met You."

OPENS AUGUST 16
THE SEQUEL TO THE NO.1 U.S. BOX-OFFICE HIT



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5:00 PM 10:00PM
1 FIERCE PEOPLE
2 CLICK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 ANT BULLY
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 STORMBREAKER
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SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MIAMI VICE /CLICK
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
MIAMI VICE
CINEMA 2
CLICK
633-8976

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1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 ANT BULLY
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 THE BREAK-UP
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 UMAARAW, UMUULAN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STORMBREAKER
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB

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1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MIAMI VICE
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 LADY IN THE WATER
9 ANT BULLY
10 SUKOB
11 THE BREAK-UP
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 CLICK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MIAMI VICE
8 ANT BULLY
9 SUKOB
10 WHITE LADY
11 JUST MY LUCK
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP
7 JUST MY LUCK
8 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
9 ANT BULLY
10 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
THE BLOCK
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 FIERCE PEOPLE
5 SUKOB
6 MIAMI VICE
7 STORMBREAKER
8 CLICK
9 FIERCE PEOPLE
10 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
11 ANT BULLY
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 STORMBREAKER
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 ANT BULLY
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 THE BREAK-UP
9 JUST MY LUCK
10 WHITE LADY
11 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12 SUKOB

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 ANT BULLY

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

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2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB

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3 THE BREAK-UP
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5 CLICK
6 SUKOB
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
8 ANT BULLY

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1 INSIDE MAN
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 LOVEWRECKED

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 CHAOS
3 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
4 THE NUN

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY FAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 ANT BULLY
4 TAMARA
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 SUKOB

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1 SUKOB
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 BANDIDAS
4 TAMARA

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 TAMARA
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 EVIL DEAD
2 CLICK
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 TAMARA
7 SUKOB
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 CLICK
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 NACHO LIBRE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 CLICK
2 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEA
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 CLICK

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Pride of all Pinoys

FEEDBACK

From Betty Ang (436 Jaboneros St., Bdo, Manila):

I would like to share with you a text message I received from a friend in Los Angeles, California on Monday:

"Jed Madela outdid himself last night at the Hollywood Palladium for the WCOPA (World Championships of the Performing Artists) 2006. The long standing ovation from people all over the world resounded from all the way up to the bleachers! Tears and cheers came from contenders and world stars while he sang the moving 'Impossible Dream.' Let's all be proud to be Pinoy! Please pass to every Filipino you know!"

That's the complete text message I received. When I passed on the message, I received two meaningful replies:

1) "Thanks for the good news. Hope ABS-CBN airs that because until now, we've heard nothing from them since Jed left last week, whereas GMA reported and mentioned Jed's name in relation to the ongoing WCOPA. Hope that ABS-CBN recognize, support and promote this true talent, this great performer, this world-class genuine talented artist because he's worthy of praise. He does make us feel proud."

2) "Hope the media and other agencies give to Jed the grand welcome denied him last year. Hope they support and recognize Jed the way they did other Filipinos who made us proud like Miss Quigaman, Mr. Pacquiao and Bata Reyes."

(Editor's note: Jed Madela won all the gold medals at stake in last year's WCOPA, plus the grand title "Champion Performer of the World." He is in Hollywood again for the event, this time as judge and honoree: He is being inducted into the WCOPA Hall of Fame for his grand slam last year. He also opened the event as guest performer, and will again sing at the closing rites this weekend. The message that reader Betty Ang received was sent to many others by her friend, Amy Bajanlangit Mercado, Jed's aunt and chaperone.)

Thrilled over 'Pangako'

From Sher Abellera (Las Piñas):

I'm so glad ABS-CBN has decided to reair "Pangako sa 'Yo," my favorite soap opera (and addiction) of all time. The people of Channel 2 can't imagine how thrilled I was when I saw Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa together again, even just for a 30-second TV plug.

I hope this soap reminds Jericho and Kristine that they have tons of fans eager for them to do another movie, or even a TV show, *kahit pa gaano kawindang-windang ang mga* personal *nilang buhay*. All the more now that Jericho's career has been in the dumps since he hooked up with Heart Evangelista, whose very mention makes me want to gag. It's not too late for him. There are fans like me who are willing to support him, just so long as he does the right project and he quits his pretentious attempts to become a (mediocre) musical artist.

AT the press con, from left: Felicity Huffman, Marc Cherry, Eva Longoria and Marcia Cross

'Maximo' for Oscars (?)... and some 'Desperate' tales

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WILL THE LATest triumph of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros"—proclaimed Best Picture of 2005 by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino—bolster its chances of being selected by the Film Academy of the Philippines as the country's entry in the next Oscar's Best Foreign Language Film race?

* * *

•How **Eva Longoria** and her boyfriend, basketball player **Tony Parker**, ended up in the private resort where **Nicole Kidman** and country singer **Keith Urban** were honeymooning.

•How **Felicity Huffman** can tell if her husband, esteemed actor **William "Bill" H. Macy**, does not like the way she is acting in a scene on "Desperate Housewives."

These were just two of the interesting topics in our recent second encounter with the actresses who play those alternately scheming, heartbreaking "Desperate Housewives." Last year, we invaded the hit TV dramedy characters' lair right on **Wisteria Lane** (at the back lot of Universal Studios). This year, we sat down with Eva Longoria, Felicity Huffman, **Marcia Cross** and the show's creator and producer, **Marc Cherry**, in a hotel ballroom. **Teri Hatcher** had begged off at the last minute. We will interview her in a separate press con later.

Fully made-up, with her long, curly hair flowing freely over her cleavage-baring printed silk blouse, Eva looked like a brown goddess. She twirled her silver necklace as she talked about various topics, including Fil-Am **Monique Lhuillier**, who is one of her favorite designers.

Felicity looked refreshing in a yellow dress, which matched her bright countenance and self-deprecating humor. She was modest in her reply on the suggestion that, with the acclaim accorded her for her role as a pre-operative transsexual in "Transamerica" (she won a Golden Globe Best Actress—Drama Award), and having won the Emmy Best Actress Award over her cast mates last year, she is now the center of attention when the "Desperadas" are gathered for a picture. The mother of two toddlers quipped, "Next year, when someone else wins, they'll stick her in the middle."

FELICITY HUFFMAN

You got nominated for an Oscar. That must have been special.

There's something really special about an Oscar. You dream about it as a young girl, when you're thinking about being an actor. The Oscars was all I saw when I was growing up in Colorado. But there is something about the Golden Globes, too. It's like old Hollywood. You're accepted in like a dream that you never thought you could reach. And the fact that I won (laughs) is fantastic. That night was magical; I danced with my husband. It was one of the best nights of my life.

Where do you see your character, Lynette Scavo, going? She's in a very volatile place right now—she has problems.

Yes, she's in a volatile place. In the first year, **Marc Cherry** and the writers were toying with the idea of Lynette's husband having another family somewhere, which would explain why he travels so much. But I think people really love our marriage—as I do. Marc floated that idea but they went, "No, we don't want to see that marriage fall apart." So instead, they introduced the idea of a love child and the crazy mother brilliantly played by **Kirsten Warren**. Next year, she moves really close to the neighborhood.

You came into your own with the awards and nominations. Is there any change in the dynamics between you and Bill? Is it more or less a level playing field between the two of you now?

Bill and I started together in a theater company. He was a well-known New York actor even then—the great Bill Macy—and I was the chubby 22-year-old with a bad perm. The dynamics did shift in the sense that I'm busy all the time now. It used to be me going (to Bill), "What do you mean, you're going away to do a movie? What about me? Wait, come back."

Right now he's at home. But Bill has always wanted me to shine. He said during that whole run of the Golden Globe and Academy Awards, "I'm so relieved that the spotlight is not on me, for a change. I am not jealous."

What about your dynamics with the girls (Eva, Teri and Marcia)?

Everyone is smart enough and have been in the business long enough to know that next year they'll be taking me out of the middle and putting someone else in. They know it's kind of cyclical.

What did this career surge do to your self-worth?

These recent breaks have been amazing to my self-esteem. I've gone to a bunch of Hollywood parties with Bill. People always want to talk to Bill and I don't blame them. I'd want to talk to Bill, too. Last year, we went to a party. People came up and started to talk to me. I'd go, "Are you looking for Bill (laughs)?" And they go, "No, I want to talk to you." **Martin Short** kept following me around, wanting to talk to me. It was wonderful.

Are you still learning from Bill, acting-wise?

Yes. I have to say he's a tough critic when we are watching the show. When it's going well, he's going like this (she smiles) and when I don't do well, I see this (she puts a palm on her forehead). That's when I know, so I wait. He'll go, "I'll say what was wrong with that scene." Or, "You analyzed it incorrectly." Or sometimes, "You made too many faces."

Tell us about your new movie and how is it for you as an actor to be working with someone like Jane Fonda.

"Georgia Rule" has a brilliant script written by **Mark Andrus** who wrote "As Good As It Gets." I play **Lindsay Lohan's** mother and Jane Fonda's daughter which is interesting. I was really nervous to meet Jane Fonda. We had a reading at **Garry Marshall's** office. It's like meeting the queen. You don't know whether to go, "Oh my God, you're so fantastic." Or whether you should be cool and be like, "Hey, I really enjoy your work." Or to genuflect. I genuflected (laughs).

Do your kids know that mom and dad are famous? Do they understand that concept?

They know that we're actors. They think I go to work to put on makeup (laughs). When they pretend to work, they put on makeup (laughs).

EVA LONGORIA

Weren't you on the same beach in Tahiti as Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban on their honeymoon?

Yes! It's funny because this resort was maybe only three days old. We picked it because nobody had heard of it. And we walked into an Australian paparazzi's nest! Then we found out—Nicole's there. We're like, "Great." They never came out of their room. Tony and I were out the whole time, jet skiing and swimming with the dolphins and the stingrays. So all the paparazzi got were pictures of us!

Are you still in contact with your gardener (Jesse Metcalfe, who portrays her lover)?

Yeah. Jesse and I talk all the time. He called me and said, "You'd better be coming to my premiere (of his movie 'John Tucker Must Die')." I answered, "Absolutely." This week, I'm filming with him. He's in Episode Three and we're going to have some fun stuff. I'm like, "Am I ever going to stop kissing you (laughs)?"

I guess he hopes you don't stop. He's a good kisser, then?

He's OK.

He's quite young, right?

He's older than Tony (laughs), if you can believe that. Tony has got to be the best kisser in the world.

On the show's set, there's a jar that everybody could put in a little note and advice. Did you put in a note as well? And what advice did you write?

Yes. "Never go to bed angry."

That's a good one.

Yeah. Tony and I follow that.

One of your favorite designers is Monique Lhuillier **from the Philippines. What do you like about her designs?**

Monique is very feminine with her designs. I love that she cuts for a woman. She's not afraid to use lace and pastels. The clothes don't look too girly and don't look like a doily. She just has this great style that evokes a modern Victorian princess. It's just pretty. It's not over the top. You wear her and you feel pretty.

You have to strip down to your bikini a lot of times on this show. Do you ever say "Again?" when you look at the script?

Oh, yeah. Before we started Season Two, we had the first table reading at Marc's house. In the script, I'm not in a relationship. I'm waiting for the baby to be born. I'm mad at Carlos and yet the script goes, "Gabrielle walks out in a towel, shaving her legs." I'm like, "Why does she have to be in a towel? She's not even with a boy!" So it was funny.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

Ready or not, it's here–but it's safe

REVIEW

NEW YORK—THE QUESTION should not be whether it is too soon for "World Trade Center," a debate that has been raging as we near both the film's opening and the five-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It is here whether you are ready for it or not—ignore it, see something else, find some other way to remember and pay respect.

The question is whether the film is accurate and effective, whether it is a fitting, moving tribute to the people who died and those who found a way to survive. To these the answer is a resounding yes.

There is not a single gratuitous minute in Oliver Stone's film, which recreates the endless hours in which two Port Authority police officers were trapped beneath the rubble of the twin towers and tracks the panic of their family and friends who waited anxiously for news of their rescue.

But the film is also the safest Stone has ever made. This is a director you expect to grab hold of a historical event—as he has with the Vietnam War in "Platoon" and the Kennedy assassination in "JFK"—and shake it tirelessly until some meaning falls out, some perspective that perhaps we had not cared or dared to consider.

What Stone has come up with here is an exceptionally crafted, strongly acted, high-end made-for-TV movie. It is visceral and intense, exceedingly faithful in its depiction of the fear and chaos, the ash and smoke, that enveloped New York that day. It can also knock you over with a moment as simple as two strangers hugging and crying over the shared unknown fate of their loved ones.

And yet it provides no insight,

> There's not a single gratuitous moment in Oliver Stone's 'World Trade Center'

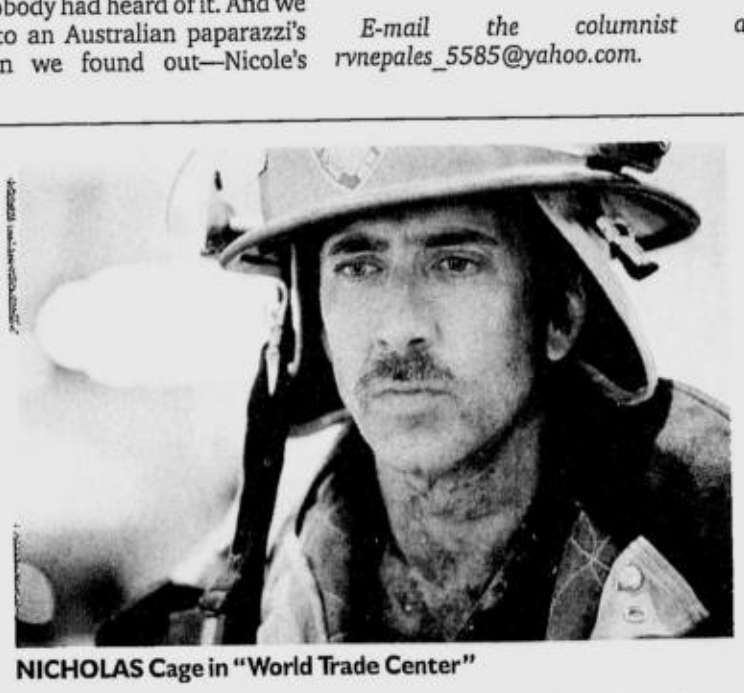
offers no political statement, does not even begin to broach the subject of terrorism. The closest it comes is in the image of a much younger-looking President Bush addressing the nation on television, promising retribution (which did draw some groans at a recent screening).

Overwhelming

Instead, "World Trade Center" approaches the overwhelming subject of Sept. 11 by telling the story of two brave men—Sgt. John McLoughlin (Nicolas Cage) and Officer Will Jimeno (Michael Pena), two of the first to enter the towers and two of the last to be pulled out 24 hours later.

John and Will, along with other policemen and firefighters, were in the concourse between the two towers when the rumbling began. They sought refuge in an elevator shaft; they ultimately found themselves in a living hell. Pinned by giant slabs of concrete, choked by dust and ash, with little air and even less light, the two men could hear but not see each other. The sense of helplessness is suffocating.

Screenwriter Andrea Berloff, with only her first feature, worked closely with the officers and their families and came up with a script that is full of big, profound moments and small, intimate details that surprisingly strike with even more of an emotional impact.



NICHOLAS Cage in "World Trade Center"

John and Will kept each other awake—and alive—just by talking to each other. They did it with the usual get-to-know-you chitchat about their wives and children, by singing the theme song of "Starsky & Hutch" (in a rare but necessary example of comic relief) and, when things look especially bleak, by praying.

Meanwhile, in Goshen, New York, and Clifton, New Jersey, Stone visits the officers' families and makes us feel their mounting dread. And in Wilton, Connecticut, a former Marine re-affirms the celebration of humanity—of the possibility of kindness, teamwork, selflessness and love under the most horrific circumstances.

The world is ready to see that.

Christy Lemire, AP

'It didn't look like Pops'

The always-candid Martin Nievera on his ex-wife's daring new ways—and wondering why she does them

By Marinel R. Cruz

IF SINGER MARTIN NIEVERA HAD HIS way, the sexy pictures of his former wife, Pops Fernandez, would not have made it to the cover of For Him Magazine (FHM).

"No way," he told a group of entertainment writers on Wednesday during the launch of "Awit ng Puso," his latest album. "It's not because I'm against FHM. I look at it once in a while. But I'm sure a lot of guys have it in their houses or in their bathrooms. That fact was what I didn't like."

Martin was referring to the August 2006 issue of FHM with Pops dressed in a sizzling black two-piece outfit.

"I didn't see the inside," Martin pointed out. "Actually, it was (the weekly talk show) 'S-Files' that sent me a soft copy of the cover two weeks before the magazine was released. It didn't look like Pops at first glance. Actually there were a lot of things in the cover that I didn't recognize."

He added: "She didn't have to do that. If some Filipino painter did something of Pops, that's for art's sake. But FHM is not dealing with art—although the photographer (Xander Angeles) is good—there's nothing really tastefully done there. It's suggestive. It's great for kids going on puberty."

That's why you told ABS-CBN's show biz talk program "The Buzz" that you're disappointed?

What happened then was really stupid. I had just finished a show in Phoenix, Arizona, when the staff of "The Buzz" called. Before taking the call, I took sleeping pills. I fell asleep and had no memory of the phone conversation. I don't even remember saying I'm disappointed until a fan who had recorded the show sent me the sound bytes through MMS.

This might just be a girl thing. You know, you got to be a Camay girl at 16 and an FHM girl when you're hitting 40. After that you can say you did it all. I don't know what Pops' plan is, but maybe that's why she did it.

Would you know the boys' reaction?

Oh, yes. I was the one who told them. In fairness to Pops, I think she told them in general what could be coming in the future.

Right after the "S-Files" interview, I asked the kids if they know what FHM is. I said, "Mom is in it."

They were a bit shocked, but then they know that their mom is an actress and she's playing a part. I said, "It's really part of her job. She's doing a movie with a really sexy theme so she has to be a little naughty in her promo."

You see, FHM is just the still-shot version of the sexy movies she's already done, which I haven't seen, by the way.

Don't you and Pops quarrel whenever you talk to the press about her, especially when you disagree with the things she does?

That hasn't happened yet. As far as she's concerned, I'm not a part of her life anymore. But I'll always do something to support her, like answer your questions to promote whatever it is she's promoting.

How is Katrina's (Ojeda) pregnancy going?

She's doing great. I could swear she's done this before because she's so good at it. She is due to give birth to a baby boy in November. Katrina wants to name him Santino. In Italian, it means little saint, while Nievera means little devil. Perfect! (Laughs.)

Is this a planned pregnancy?

Not planned, but something that's way overdue. She said she's always wanted to have my child, even if we don't get married. She said even if we break up, she wants to be able to say she has a piece of me with her. She told me that two years ago.

How did you tell the boys?

I was on my way back here at the time I found out Katrina was pregnant. The first thing I did when I arrived was to have a four-hour chat with the boys. On the fourth hour, I broke the news.

MARTIN Nievera

I was very nervous. Never since the breakup had I done anything remotely close to moving on. Even Pops herself told me numerous times, "Mart, you have to move on. Look at me, I've moved on."

The boys said: "Wow! That's great, Dad! But you have to tell Mom. You don't want her to find out about it from any of us." I promised them I'd tell Pops when we see each other in Madrid, Spain. But the news came out in the papers before I reached Madrid.

How did Pops react?

Pops, who never sends text messages, sent me one. "It is true what I read in the papers?" she asked. I told Pops in an 18-page text message exactly what I told the kids. She gave no answer.

When she got to Madrid, she didn't say hello. My gripe was, I wish she told me how she felt and not "The Buzz" or "S-Files." She even cried. I would be so flattered to know that for one second in her life, she missed me.

We only got to speak to each other on the

IT DIDN'T/ F-3

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ROUNDUP

Dick, Aiza on 'MMK'

TONIGHT, "MAALAALA MO KAYA?" features Roderick Paulate and Aiza Seguerra in a love story between a gay man and a gay woman.

Written by Maribel Ilag and directed by Jeffrey Jeturian, the episode tells the story of Bundang (Roderick) and Baduday (Aiza), two neighbors who find themselves increasingly becoming closer despite a disastrous first meeting.

This becomes a problem as *"parlorista"* Bundang has a *bagets* boyfriend (Zeppi Borromeo) while barangay *tanod* Baduday is in a relationship with a comely girl (Eunice Lagusad).

Cris Villanueva and Kris Martinez complete the cast.

Parangal awardee

Rina Lopez-Bautista, president of Knowledge Channel Foundation, was awarded the Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan by the Ateneo de Manila University.

She was cited for "providing programs nationwide including and especially in far-flung areas of Mindanao by way of media and technology and through sheer political will managed to move resources toward the attainment of the goal to provide education to children who have no access to schools in their areas."

All programs in Knowledge Channel are adapted into fun, engaging and informative formats suited for the different learning levels of grade school and high school students in the Philippines.

Batista in Manila

Dave Michael Batista, more popularly known in the wrestling arena as Batista, goes to the Araneta Coliseum with fellow World Wrestling Entertainment superstars like Rey Misterio, The Undertaker and The Great Khali for the "WWE SmackDown! Survivor Series Tour."

Batista arrives in Manila on Sept. 7 for radio tours and mall shows. Fans can meet and greet the sports superstar with a Filipino heritage when they avail of promos and discounts at the Araneta Center.

The survivor series tour is on Oct. 21 and 22, with tickets at P10 to P5,250. Call Ticketnet, 911-5555.

'Racing Stripes'

In the middle of a raging thunderstorm, a traveling circus accidentally leaves behind a baby zebra (voiced by Frankie Muniz) on Star Movies Presents "Racing Stripes" on Aug. 13 at 9 p.m.

The gangly little foal is rescued by Nolan Walsh (Bruce Greenwood) and quickly introduced to his daughter Channing and the farm's misfit troupe of barnyard residents, led by a cranky Shetland Pony named Tucker (voiced by Dustin Hoffman) and Franny (voiced by Whoopi Goldberg), a wise old goat who keeps the family in line.

The Walsh farm borders the Turfway Racetrack, where skilled thoroughbreds complete for horse racing's top honor, the prestigious Kentucky Crown. From the moment Stripes lays eyes on the track, he's hooked.

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PLATINUM CINEMA
ANT BULLY 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
MIAMI VICE 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
THE BREAK - UP 6:40 / 9:00
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1 STORMBREAKER 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
2 CLICK 1:15 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 8:15
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 R3 / 2:20 / 5:20 / 8:20
4 SUKOB 12:10 R2 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30
5 MIAMI VICE 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
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Mikee wants to have . . .

From page F-1

most of them are retired from competition.

Mikee, 32, has trained several actors in riding, including Angel Locsin, now her co-star in GMA 7's "Majica." She would have trained Regine Velasquez, too, for the movie "Till I Met You," but the singer-actress had fallen sick.

In "Majika," Mikee's role calls for her transformation from the human Sabina into a mythical half-horse. "Now, I know how it feels to be a horse," she laughed. "It's a good role. My husband didn't object when I told him I'd been offered the part. So I guess it was meant to be."

The role marks Mikee's return as an actress after five years.

"I guess I missed all this," she said. "I love my family, and the best thing in my life now is the freedom that I'm enjoying. But I also miss work in show biz. So it's a compromise for me."

She would like to have another baby next year, in addition to her two little boys.

"I wish we could make sure it would be a girl," she said, laughing again. "I want to have two girls, so the numbers would be even."

OPENS AUG 16
Cameron Bailey (Programmer, Toronto International Film Festival): *It is a powerful, beautifully observed film with a very affecting lead performance.*
Rina Jimenez-David (Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer): *In Kubrador, Jeturian has shown the maturity of his gifts. The years may have padded her features, but Pareño remains a compelling performer.*
Julia Khomiakova (FIPRESCI, Russia): *The FIPRESCI award to Kubrador was a unanimous choice. We have never seen anything like it.*
Mario Bautista (Columnist, People's Journal): *Kubrador is the most daring film we've seen in years. It is Jeturian's most thought-provoking work so far with Pareno in the best performance of her life and career.*
Phillip Cheah (Programmer, Singapore International Film Festival): *I think it is Jeturian's best work since Pila Balde and Tuhog. The lead actress, who is a fat lady, is brilliant.*
Tito Valiente (Columnist, Business Mirror): *If we are going to cheer and dream for the hope of our film industry, we look for them in films like Kubrador, and in actor like Gina Pareño. She is bound to shock those who have counted her as a losing bet.*
Billy Balbastro (Columnist, Abante): *Kubrador is a jewel of a film-well crafted and elegantly told with a strong social and political statement.*
Italo Spianelli (Consultant, Rome Film Festival): *The people behind Kubrador should be very proud. It marks a renaissance of Filipino films. It is so powerful and daring.*
...only few of the reasons why you should not miss this film!
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KUBRADOR
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN
R-13
CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD GRADED A

SHOW TIME

Today

ROBINSONS METRO EAST HOSTS THE grand launch of LOUD magazine today, 3 p.m. at the mall's fountain area. The big event will be celebrated with performances from favorite local bands like Slapshock, Itchyworms, 6Cyclemind and Alamid.

Tomorrow

Flintstones and the Gang will be performing tomorrow and Aug. 26 at **Merk's Bar Bistro**, Greenbelt 3, Makati City.

Aug. 16

"Cerrudo: Classico... Classic Ko," the concert series for a cause featuring performing artist Bimbo Cerrudo, continues its second-month run on Aug. 16, 22 and 30 at the Teatrino in Greenhills. Each concert night will serve as fundraiser to benefit an institution or foundation.

Cerrudo will be performing well-loved standards, songs from the cinema, light opera and classical-pop crossover tunes accompanied by a 14-piece ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Rodel Colmenar.

For tickets, call 0920-7006115 for Aug. 16, 0906-4425726 for Aug. 22, and 0918-9250384 for Aug. 30.

Aug. 17

Catch **Acoustic Jive** on Aug. 17, 24 and 31 at **Merk's Bar Bistro**, Greenbelt 3, Makati City.

Aug. 25

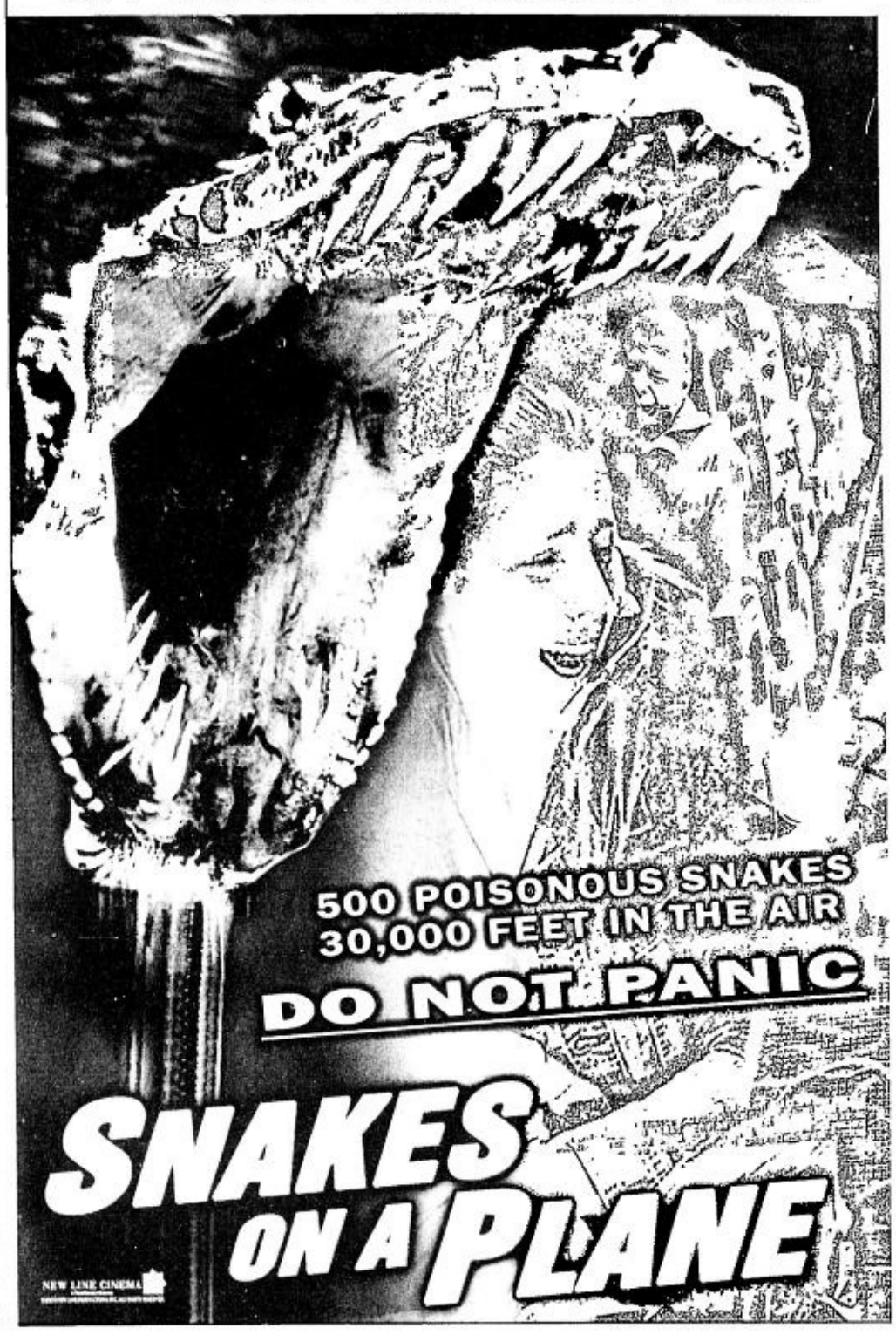
Pilita Corrales and **Christian Bautista** will have a "Music and Memories" concert at **Starmall Las Piñas** at 7 p.m. For inquiries, call 8725249.

Sept. 4

Viva Concerts brings the boy band Westlife back to Manila on Sept. 4 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Composed of Shane Filan, Kian Egan, Nicky Byrne and Mark Feehily, Westlife grabbed the public's attention with their first single "Swear It Again" and has developed a strong fan base in Southeast Asia.

Tickets are available at SM Ticketnet outlets and the Araneta Coliseum Box Office for P4,500; P4,000; P3,000; P1,500 and P350. Call 911-5555.



FIERCE PEOPLE: A POWERFUL DRAMA WITH A POWERHOUSE CAST

Could the rich be compared to a primitive tribe? Are vicious beasts lurking in suburban jungles? The new movie Fierce People examines the deceit and betrayal that erupts when a working-class mother and her son move to a wealthy, country club, suburb where social climbing is a blood sport.

Starring Oscar nominee Diane Lane, veteran actor Donald Sutherland, and promising actor Anton Yelchin, Fierce People is a bold drama about the dark secrets of America's elite where sex, drugs and violence abound.

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MTRCB Rating: R-13
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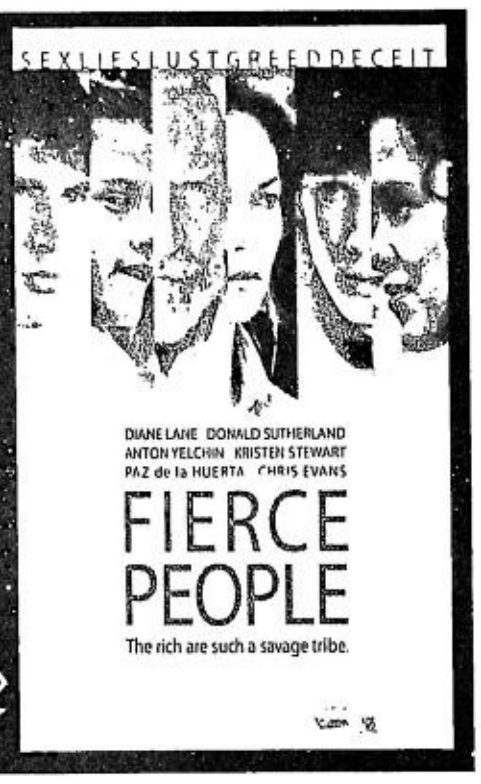

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G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 SUKOB	2 STORMBREAKER	3 THX MIAMI VICE 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 FIERCE PEOPLE	5 ANT BULLY	6 CLICK	7 JUST MY LUCK
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 SUKOB		2 CLICK	
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX MIAMI VICE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX CLICK 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		3 FIERCE PEOPLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE BREAK-UP 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SUKOB 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CLICK		2 MIAMI VICE	
		3 SUKOB	4 ANT BULLY	5 STORMBREAKER	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CLICK	2 JUST MY LUCK	3 THE BREAK-UP	4 WOLF CREEK
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 CLICK		2 STORMBREAKER	
		3 ANT BULLY	4 SUKOB	5 MIAMI VICE	

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LIVINGstyles

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

Give us feedback! inquirer ent (space) name/address/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** inquirerentertainment@inquirer.com.ph

HOME BODY

City girl country girl

GAMBLING IS THE farthest thing from the mind of actress Gina Pareño, unlike her now-famous screen character Amy, bet collector.

Gina, back in the show biz saddle, has enough in her hands to keep her busy and carefree.

When not shooting—or traveling to represent the country in yet another international film festival—she's off to a very private hideaway, where she does all the things that make her happy.

Photo above shows here at the "welcoming" door that she designed herself. *See page G/4.*

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DID YOU KNOW...

• **Sharon Cuneta's** shoe size is 9 1/2.

• **Martin Nievera** said girlfriend **Katrina Ojeda** cooked and washed for him and his kids when they were in the US.

• **Lucy Torres-Gomez,** when she forgets a recipe, calls home (Ormoc) and asks mom.

• **Francis M** regularly posts on his blog snapshots that he takes of friends and kin. We found this cute picture of his youngest son (left) with **Ely Buendia's** kid.

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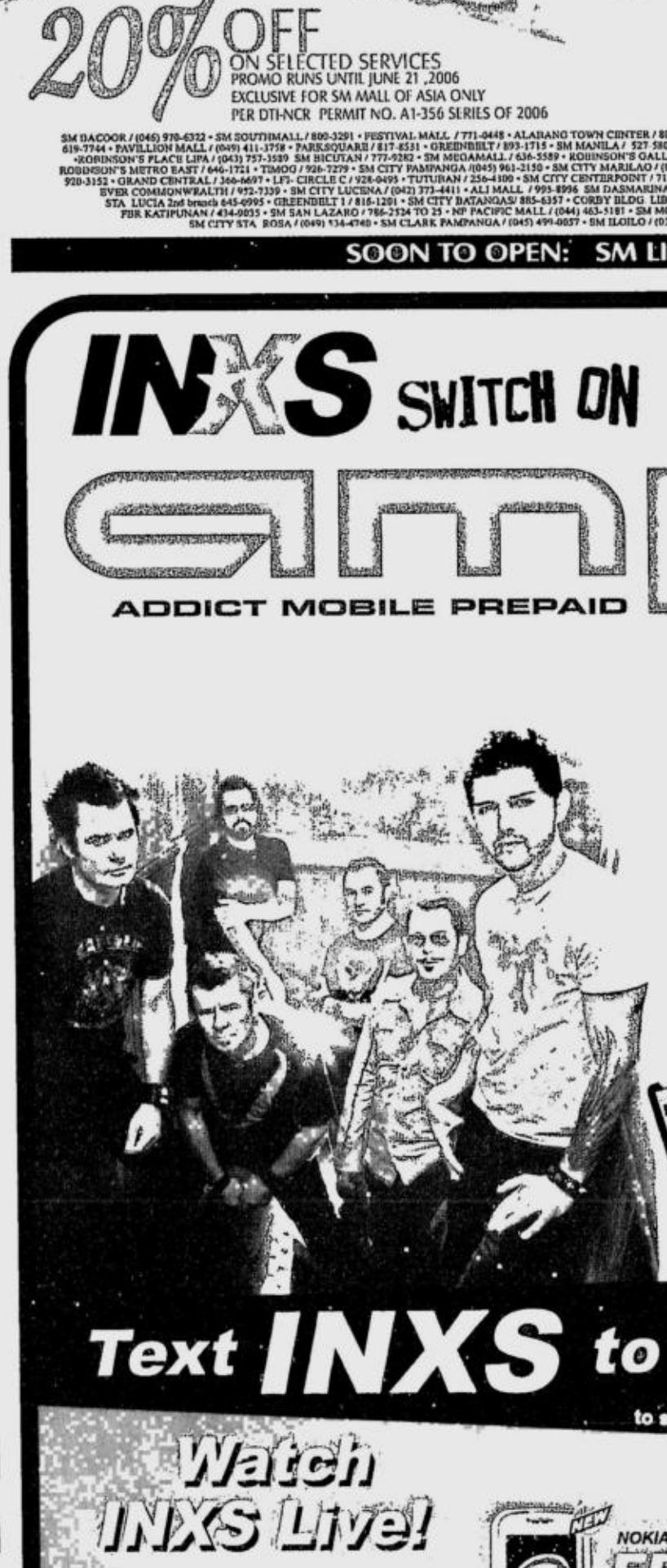

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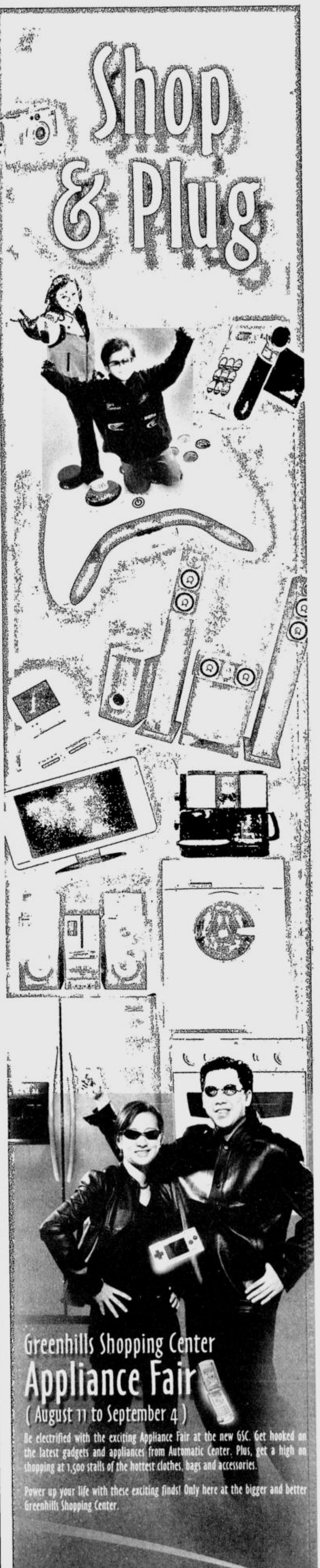

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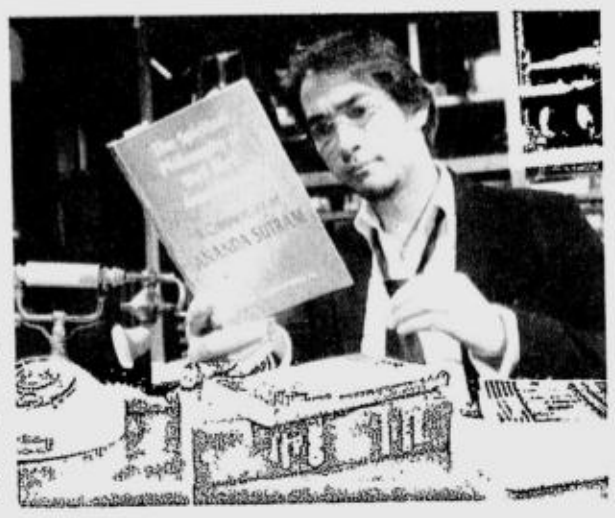
BOOKS

RAYMOND BAGATSING

My favorite book is the "The Spiritual Philosophy of Shrii Shrii Ánandamúrti: A Commentary on Ánanda Sútram." It answers my questions on spirituality, not only through faith but also through scientific explanation. I give copies to friends—but only those who I think are ready for it. It's not easy to digest.

Marinel R. Cruz

PHOTO: EDWIN BACASMAS



FAVORITE NOOKS

Claudine Barretto

"My husband Raymart (Santiago) and I love spending time at the terrace, watching our daughter Sabina Natasha play. Our house looks like an Asian spa-resort, relaxing and laid-back. We have a view of the river from here. Sometimes we see kids and carabaos swimming. It's like being in the province."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STAR STUDIO

TAIL TALES

DREW ARELLANO

Uno is a two-year-old Labrador. He's a birthday gift to me from my co-workers in "Unang Hirit." That's also why I named him Uno. I feel guilty that I hardly have time to take care of him. I just leave him in the condo. But I make sure he eats only dog food and gets his vaccine from the vet regularly.

Marinel R. Cruz

Independents' day

SO THIS IS HOW INDIE FILMMAKERS PARTY.

The ufo Pictures team celebrated the Urian Best Picture victory of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" with a bash right after the awards ceremony, at the Katips restaurant in Quezon City.

Leading the revelry was "Maxi" himself, Nathan Lopez, with twin Gami (who are turning 15 next week).

Flashing a triumphant smile throughout was Jaclyn Jose, Best Actress winner for another ufo production, "Sarong Banggi," which will have its theatrical run in 11 SM digital cinemas on Sept. 6.

Jaclyn's best buddy, Cherry Pie Picache, dropped by, along with the Arkeo Films troupe, which produced "Big Time," also an Urian nominee.

Movie producer Tony Gloria brought along the night's Best Actor, Robin Padilla who chucked off his barong and joined the indies—or, in his words, the movie world's "revolutionaries."

"It was like a fiesta; everyone was happy to be there," quipped Mr. G. of Unitel, which will be re-releasing "Maxi," with re-graded and re-mastered prints on Sept. 20.

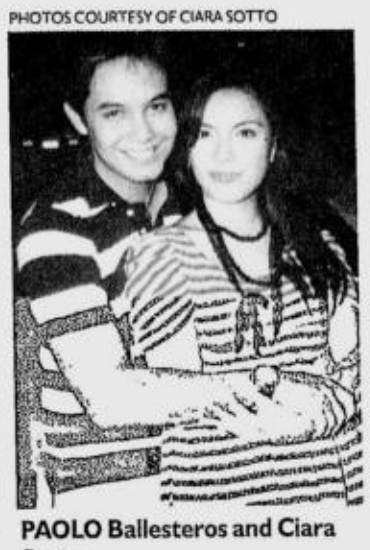
Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEROME GOMEZ AND FRANCIS SIMEON

INDIE kids Angelo Ilagan of "Sarong Banggi" and Nathan Lopez of "Maximo" (right)

Wishing Ciara well

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CIARA SOTTO



PAOLO Ballesteros and Ciara Sotto

CIARA SOTTO'S real-life and "Eat Bulaga" families came in full force to mark her nth birthday last month.

The intimate dinner was held at the Sottos' new house in Quezon City.

Ciara's cousin Sharon Cuneta topped the guest list, which included "Bulaga" junior hosts Pia Guanio, Teri Onor, Gladys Guevarra, Julia Clarete, Paolo Ballesteros and Sugar Mercado.

Also present were "Bulaga" bosses Antonio P. Tuviera and Malou Choa-Fagar.

"Uncle" Joey de Leon came with his kids Kempee and Jocas.

Of course, the happiest faces—next to the birthday girl, that is—were those of her parents Tito Sotto and Helen Gamboa and sisters Apples and Lala.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

WITH Joey de Leon

WITH Sugar Mercado and Pia Guanio

HELEN Gamboa and Sharon Cuneta

MADELEINE and Antonio Tuviera

WITH Keempee and Jocas de Leon

WITH Malou Choa-Fagar

Through Trends: The Fun Revolution

We have seen a lot of changes happen throughout the decades. But one of the constant staples is Jack 'n Jill. Its fun snacks have remained popular from the time they were launched in the market until today. Snacks that we munched on when we were younger are still the same snack brands we see children enjoying to this very day. Even fashion and music trends are making a comeback. Although now, they are labeled as "retro".

Back in the 60s, instead of going to bars, parties used to be held in a friend's house where everyone would go to mingle and meet new people. Entertainment for the night would be to have a friend's band play for the crowd. Though back then we didn't call them a "band". They were aptly referred to as a "combo". We would all hang out, listen to good music and have a good time. Of course, no get together would ever be complete without snacks like Chiz Curls or Chippy - great inventions launched in the 60s which are still top sellers to this day. But, rock music wasn't the only highlight of the 60s. Famous fashion trends were also set during this era. The hippie fashion famous back then is to this day still all the rage with teenage girls: peasant blouses and loosely fit skirts with floral designs.

As the years passed, rock still lived on but disco also entered the picture. This greatly influenced the lifestyle, fashion and music of the 70s era. From loosely slung clothes that imbibed the spirit of mother nature, clothes started to become tighter and flashier. And to this day, the disco fever is still very much alive. The 70s will always signify the years of unadulterated fun with trips to the beach or to Baguio in the company of friends where we would always bring along our favorite snacks like Potato Chips, Pretzels or Presto.

Before we knew it, the 80s was just around the bend. With this new era came New Wave. And from wearing disco clothes, we switched to blouses with thick shoulder pads and sported high, high hairdo's perpetually held back with hairspray. Aerobics was also a favorite and we just loved wearing those leg warmers! A rush of teens would go to aerobics class right after a long day, bringing along a Cloud 9 bar in order to give that extra boost needed for their work out. After all that hard work, we'd indulge in Piattos - all the more reason to stick to our dance routines!

Along with all the developments that went on throughout the decades, let's not discount the rise of technology! During earlier times, we played games using sticks and rocks. But kids of the 90s had more high tech games like Atari and Game & Watch, which later evolved to Sega games. The fashion at that time was something similar to what was prevalent decades before - teens would go around with their plaid shirts, uncombed hair and boots. The 90s was something new. From attending children's parties, we were now hosting them. And of course, in every children's party, there always had to be Nips in every loot bag given away. And with all the kiddie parties being thrown and attended, where chocolates and cakes were in abundance, there were those who opted to grab a bag of Nova or eat a pack of Magic Flakes so as not to let gravity catch up with them. It was always exciting to prepare for the children - from throwing birthday parties to celebrating special occasions like Christmas and Trick or Treat during Halloween where Dynamite and Maxx candies were given away.

Growing up through the years, we've seen a lot of changes happen through the decades. Time passes quickly - from being kids ourselves to raising our own. Maybe the lyrics or the tone of the music will change. Maybe fashion will come and go. Technology will always be a constantly evolving industry, but favorites like Jack 'n Jill snacks will always be there to accompany every fond memory. Jack 'n Jill has been creating fun snacks for all of us for the past 50 years. They continued to develop and launch new products since day one, and they will continue to do so making sure that they will be part of all our fond memories. They will keep on evolving and will continue to offer us an endless list of well-loved snacks that will accompany us in life's happy moments.

ADVT

City girl,

Gina Pareño's two worlds

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT TOOK AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS GINA Pareño two years to get used to living on her own, now that her son and daughter are grown up, and after the demise of her longtime life partner.

"My mentor," she recalled, wistfully. "I had the empty nest syndrome."

In the city home they had shared, there were just too many memories.

Like her character Amy in "Kubrador," Gina coped with loneliness the only way she knew how: by keeping herself busy.

While "recovering," she hied off to the province, where she indulged in her secret passions: fishing, gardening, orchid breeding and pampering her 18 cats. (In the city she also has two cockatoos, two cockatiels, two lovebirds and a stray sparrow, plus shih tzus Sakee and Tara.)

Gina has also developed a new talent, interior design.

She's partial to down-to-earth styles, echoes of her no-nonsense Tondo roots. She picks up home and garden ideas from friends, books and magazines, and then some: "I use my imagination."

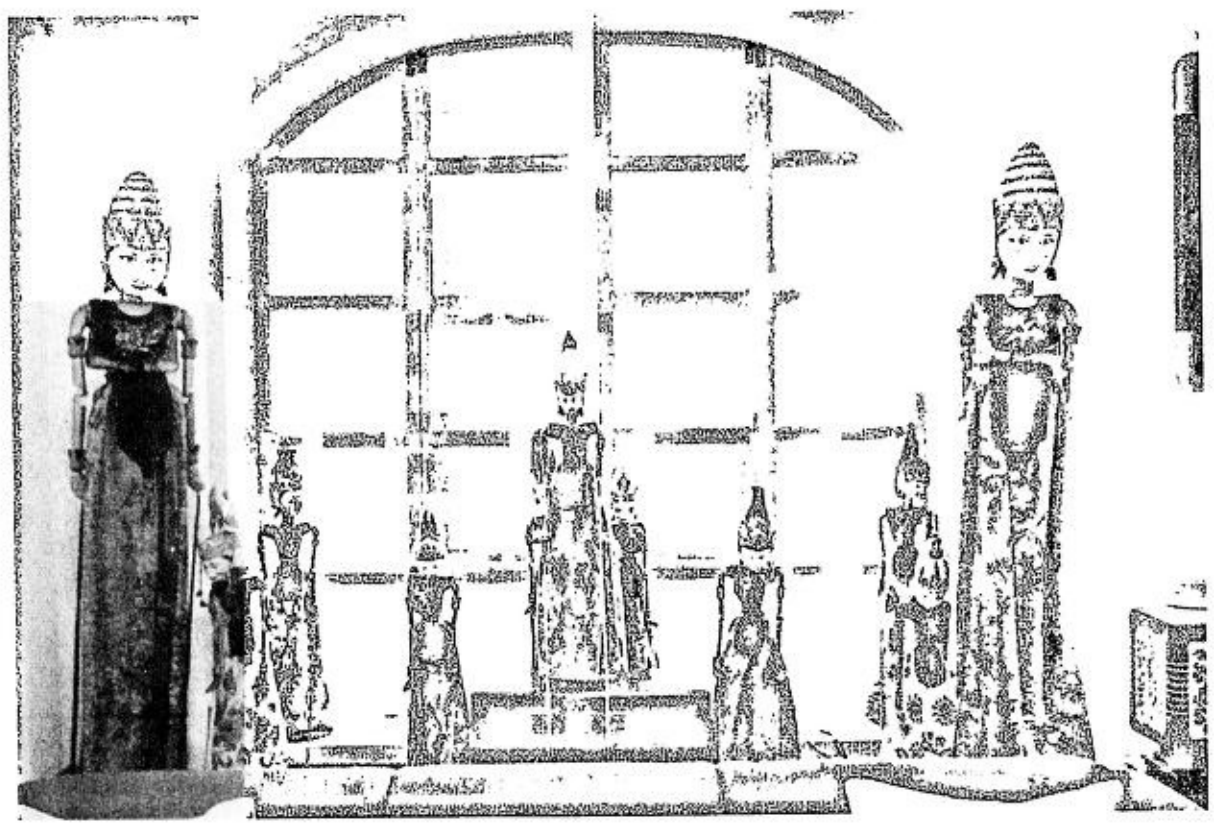
"Kubrador," which continues to win accolades abroad, opens in local theaters next week. And so Gina is again sweating bullets. Another fine excuse to spend the weekend away from the city.

HOME BODY

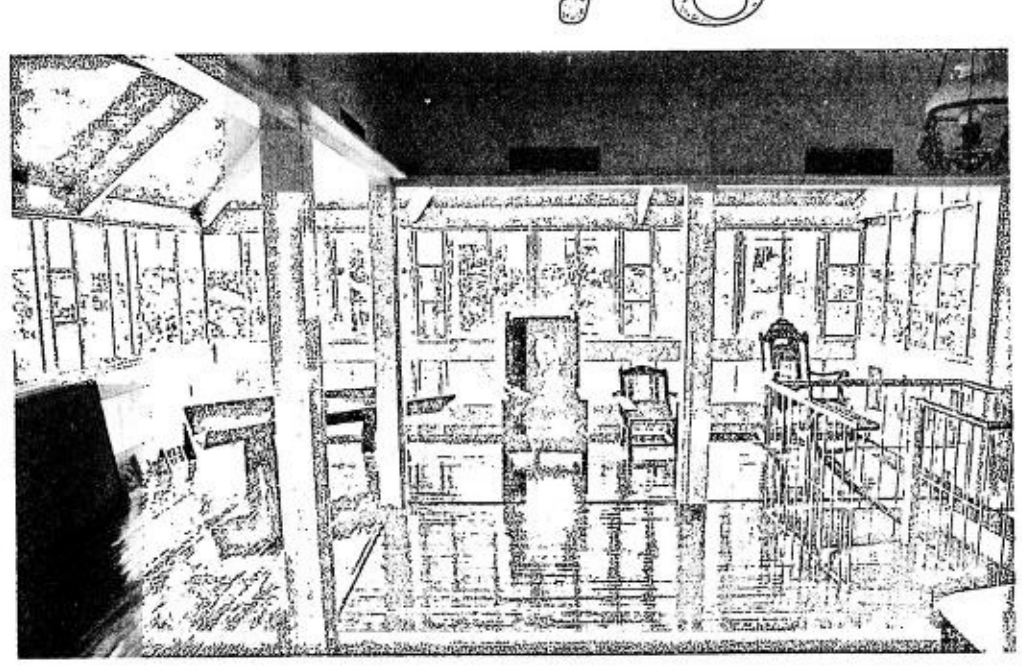
"I HAVE a green thumb. I can't wait for the flowers to bloom. My yaya Thelma brought a plant from Davao. The Philippine ambassador gave me a plant from Russia as a gift when we were there for the Moscow International Film Festival."

"BOGART the cockatoo, once escaped from his cage, only to come back with a new partner, whom I named Thalia. Later, I found out Thalia was also male. Only then did I realize: Bogart is gay!"

"THE CITY reminds me of my late partner. But I've moved on. Life is too short for grief. *Hindi ako nagtatanim ng galit. Sa* garden *lang ako nagtatanim . . . ng halaman* (I don't plant seeds of anger in my heart. I only plant flowers in my garden)."


"THE BATIK dresses for my wayang golek were sewn by my good friend Odette Khan. She was very patient, dressing up all 11 [Indonesian] puppets."

country girl


"I'M A minimalist. I like to be surrounded by simple, beautiful, but not necessarily expensive things, like wooden furniture. When I see a nice wooden bench or mirror frame at a friend's house, I photograph it for carpenters to copy."

"DR. PIE Calayan scolds me when I go fishing. She says too much sun is bad for the skin. Once, I gave her fresh fish as peace offering. She wasn't impressed."

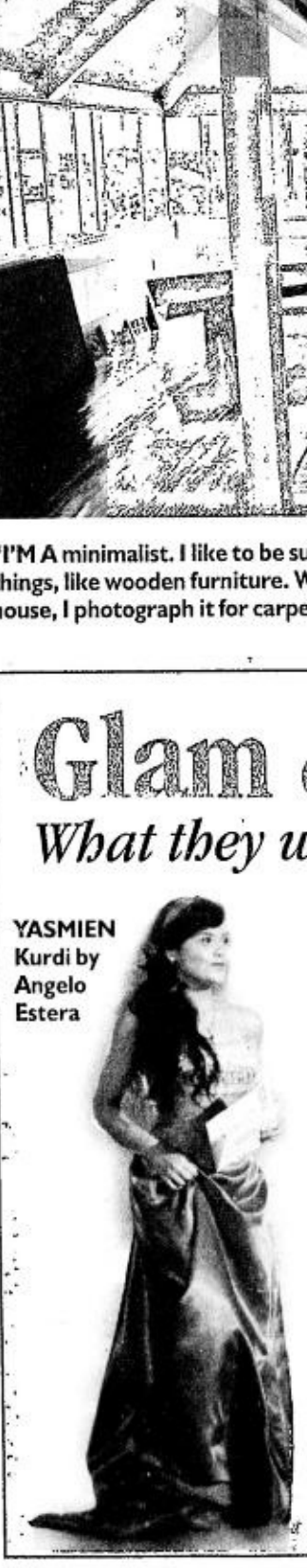
"I TAKE pictures of my orchids when they're in full bloom. I also planted white and lavender Cambodia, jade vine, *encantada*, red *bignonia*, *palito*, *pasionara*, lotus. Next summer, the garden will be filled with different colorful flowers."

Glam & Glitter

What they wore to the Urian

RED CARPET

YASMIEN Kurdi by Angelo Estera



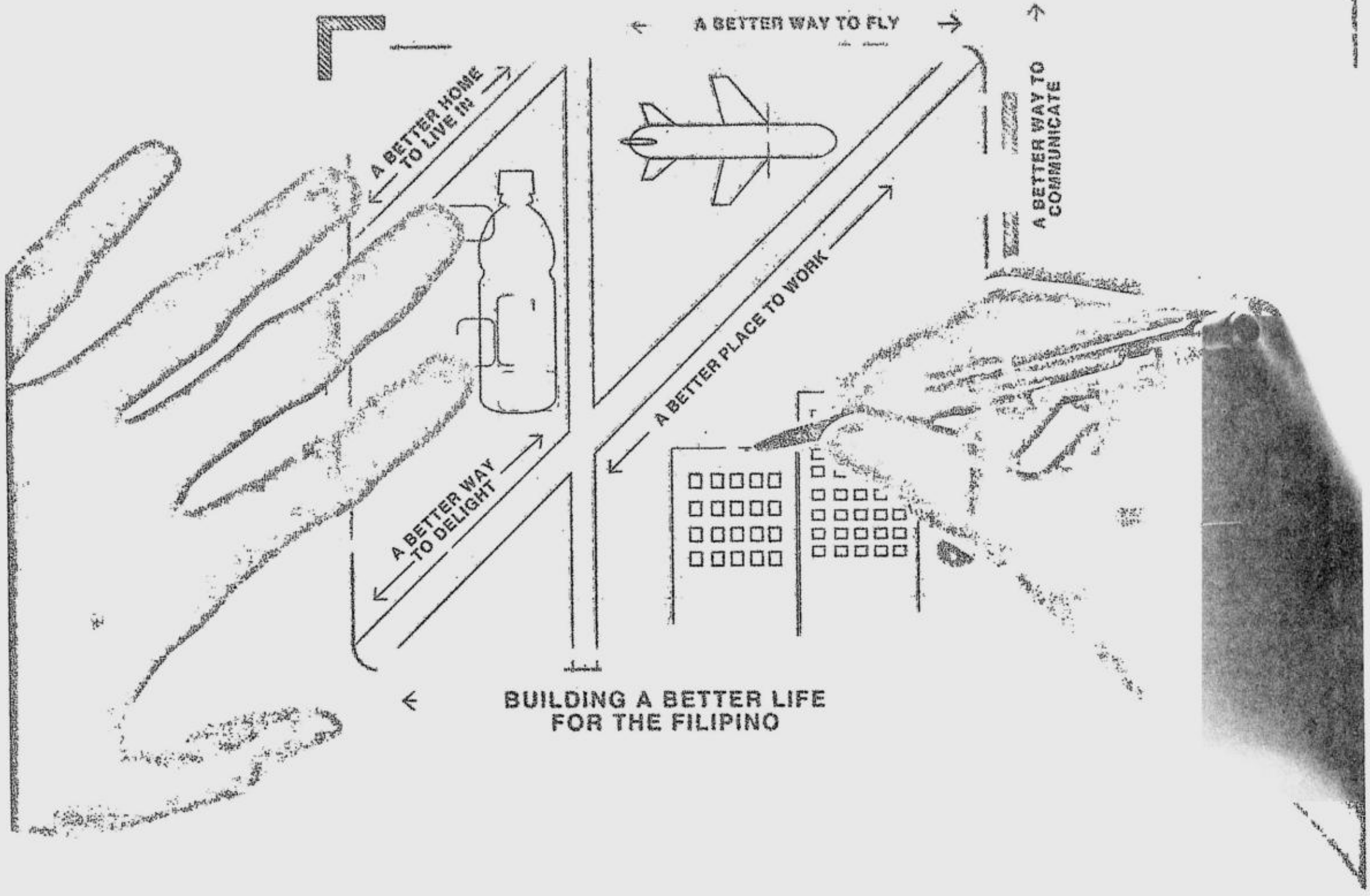
POLO Ravales by JC Buendia, Ara Mina by Goulee Gorospe

SHARON Cuneta by Paul Cabral, Cesar Montano by Paul Smith

KUH Ledesma by Kuh Ledesma

ALESSANDRA de Rossi by Njork and Cathy Binag

IZA Calzado by Lyle Ibañez



FROM A BICYCLE TO BIG BUSINESS

In the Philippines, the mention of the Gokongwei name has become synonymous with big business. It brings to mind Robinsons Land Corporation, Cebu Pacific, Universal Robina Corporation, Digitel, Summit Media, Robinsons Retail Group, United Industrial Corporation, Ltd. and other well-known names. As impressive as these companies are, the most remarkable thing about them is the story of the man behind their creation and success. The ultimate rags-to-riches story, it reads almost like a movie, with its ending being all the more satisfying for being real.

John Gokongwei Jr. ("Mr. John" to many in his employ) was a child born to privilege, being the son of a successful businessman who owned one of Cebu's largest movie theater chains in the late 1920s. His father's untimely death in 1939 at the age of 34 left the family in dire circumstances; and the then 13-year-old boy found himself faced with the task of becoming the breadwinner for a family of 7 (his mother and 5 other siblings). He worked hard, establishing himself as one of Cebu's youngest traders by buying and selling goods from one town to the next and transporting them on his bicycle. He eventually graduated from the bicycle to the batel, a local sailboat, which helped him expand his trading to cities like Lucena and Manila. The wartime years saw an increase in demand for the goods he traded which included soap, candles, and tires. By the end of the war, Mr. John had saved Php 40,000 and was ready to put up a business.

In 1957, needing capital for his fledgling enterprise, Mr. John decided to make his first loan. Turned down by the first bank he approached, he persevered until he was finally granted a Php 500,000 clean loan from China Bank. In return for the faith they showed in an untried newcomer, Mr. John has maintained his relationship with this bank, carrying an account with them to this day.

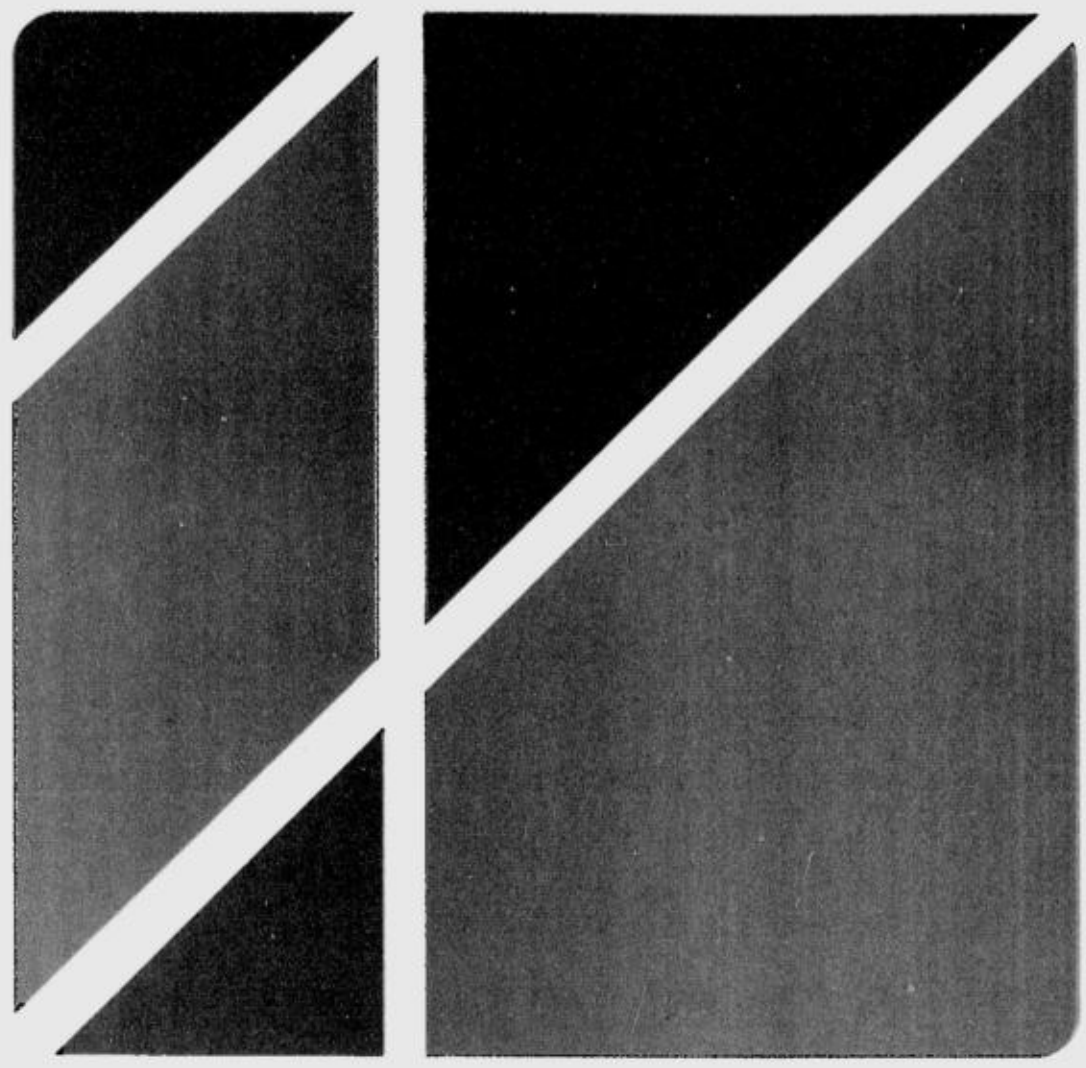
The first Gokongwei company was called Amasia Trading and it dealt with importing much-needed goods (such as flour, vegetables and fruits) and clothing from the United States. Mr. John had correctly anticipated the demand for such necessities in the post-war Philippines and his foresight led to the rapid expansion of his business to Manila and Davao.

Ever the forward thinker, Mr. John's next step was to move from trading into manufacturing. Beginning with the manufacture of cornstarch, a basic commodity, he soon moved into production of branded consumer products and established Consolidated Food Corporation (CFC) together with his brothers and some partners. CFC hit it big with its 2nd product, Blend 45 coffee, which was positioned as an affordable instant coffee for the masses. Diversifying even more, they put up Universal Robina Corporation 5 years later. Universal Robina Corporation produces the "Jack 'n Jill" brand of snack food and remains the country's most dominant player in this field. Further expanding his empire, Mr. John eventually joined the board of Far East Bank which then led to other banking ventures including Asian Bank (1984) and PCI Bank (1988).

In 1989, he went public, with Robinsons Land Corporation as his first IPO. This move enabled funding to construct Robinsons Galleria Complex; the first mixed-use development in the Philippines. With additional listings such as URC and Digitel coming soon after the Gokongwei businesses had begun to diversify and a need for consolidation became evident. In 1992, JG Summit Holdings, Inc. was established for this purpose.

Today, JG Summit Holdings, Inc. remains one of the country's strongest holding companies and has expanded globally, with manufacturing facilities and other investments across Asia. With the same foresight that propelled the boy on a bike towards success, it is poised to continue growing into the premiere Philippine-based multinational that its founder envisions it to be. .a major player in a worldwide market.

COMPANY CALL



JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS, INC.

Without a doubt, a JG Summit Holdings, Inc. product or service has become part of the typical Filipino's life in one way or another. Get to know the Gokongwei companies, who they are and how each in its own way makes a contribution towards improving the quality of your life.

UNIVERSAL ROBINA CORPORATION

Universal Robina Corporation (URC) is one of the largest food and beverage product companies in the Philippines. At any given time, each Filipino household probably has at least one of their products in its larder. Included in URC's roster are Jack 'n Jill snack foods such as a variety of chocolates, candies, biscuits, baked goods, and savory snacks. Here is just a sampling of the treats they manufacture:

Chippy, Piattos and Nova snacks
Cloud 9 and Nips chocolates
MAXX and Dynamite candies
Magic Flakes and Jack 'n Jill Pretzels
Presto Creams, Dewberry and Cream-O Cookies
Quake cakes

Aside from satisfying the nation's munching needs; URC is also responsible for many of the beverages that we enjoy everyday. These include coffee, tea and mineral water, under these brands:

Great Taste and Blend 45 coffee
Cream All creamer
Refresh Mineral Water and flavored drinks
Bull Fighter energy drink
C2 Cool & Clean Tea
Rush Fitness Water
Teazz

In partnership with Nissin Food Products and Hunt-Wesson Inc., URC also markets and manufactures products that bear these companies' names which include the Payless and Nissin lines of instant noodles, Hunt's tomato-based products (ketchup, sauces and beans) and Swiss Miss powdered beverages. With manufacturing facilities in Indonesia, Thailand, China, Malaysia and Vietnam, URC's food products are distributed and enjoyed both in the country and throughout the world.

URC's Agro-Industrial arm also operates three separate divisions. These are Robina Farms (hog and poultry farming), Universal Corn Products (manufacturing and distribution of animal feeds, glucose and soya products) and Robichem (production and distribution of animal health products). A Commodity Foods Group produces flour, pasta and sugar, both for use in the making of URC's branded consumer goods and for general sale.

DIGITEL

With a fully digital backbone transmission system through North and South Luzon, Digital Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (Digitel) is the country's second largest provider of fixed telephone lines, through the Digitel Local Exchange Carrier (LEC). Catering to consumers' fixed line, wireless and internet needs, it has provided innovations in voice and data communication products. Most popular among these is the Sun Cellular 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited feature, which allows unlimited intra-network calls and SMS. This feature has had a great impact on tariff charges in the country and re-defined consumer usage practices. It was soon followed by 24/7 Text Unlimited and Daylite Call and Text Unlimited, promotions which left competitors scrambling to keep up. Always ahead of the trend, Sun Cellular continues to dream up new value-added services for its subscribers. Mobile Mail (MMail), introduced in 2005, allows subscribers to access email anytime, anywhere and even download attachments with selected handsets. The IDD Top 10 offers US$0.10 per minute calls to the US, China, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Guam and Macau; allowing Pinoys to keep in touch with their loved ones living and working abroad.

Digitel also provides high-speed internet services through DigitelOne. At P788/month, its NetVantage DSL Plan Personal is the best-valued DSL in the market; putting uninterrupted high-speed connections within easy reach of the consumer. It also serves as a transport for the VoIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol). Another product, NetDirect, puts dial-up internet service at the consumers' fingertips via a Digitel phone and a single dial-up number.

SUN CELLULAR

CEBU PACIFIC

Cebu Pacific flew for the first time on March 8, 1996, and today the airline now has a total of nineteen domestic destinations and three regional destinations – Hong Kong, Seoul, Korea, and Pusan. In only 10 years, Cebu Pacific has boarded over fifteen million passengers. In November 2005, Cebu Pacific introduced the "GO! Fares" and the www.cebupacificair.com online booking capability. Cebu Pacific's offering of lower fares also promotes local tourism and even closer family ties since travel to the provinces has become very affordable.

Cebu Pacific is the second largest airline in the country with a 41% market share on the routes where the airline operates. Cebu Pacific's traffic carriage was achieved, not simply by taking market share from the competition, but primarily by "enlarging the pie" and pulling in new air travelers through its low fare, great value offering.

Cebu Pacific aims to be internationally renowned as the most successful low-cost carrier in the Asia-Pacific region and aims to be the best domestic airline and the Filipino travelers' first choice. Cebu Pacific endeavors to bring people together through an affordable and reliable mode of travel, a consistently fun-filled experience delivered with a true heart and soul for service.

ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

One of the country's leading real estate companies, Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC) develops both residential and commercial properties designed to suit a wide range of lifestyles and budgets. These include shopping malls, high-rise buildings, hotels and subdivisions.

The Robinsons Galleria Complex, built in the 1980s, is the country's first mixed-use development. RLC has since put up several other commercial centers: Robinsons Place in Manila, Bacolod, Imus, Iloilo, Novaliches, Santa Rosa, Dasmariñas, Lipa, Cainta, Angeles, Metro Bacolod, Pioneer and Cebu, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Cagayan de Oro, Robinsons Town Mall Laguna and Robinsons Starmills Pampanga. All in all, RLC has put up 18 malls to date. These provide a variety of shopping, dining and leisure options for Filipino consumers.

In keeping pace with modern life, RLC has also developed 14 high-rise office buildings, and 3 residential condominiums. These buildings are the Galleria Corporate Center, The Robinsons-Equitable Tower, The Robinsons Summit Center, Robinsons Cybergate Center, Robinsons Place Residences, Galleria Regency and Bloomfields. 5 more condominiums are currently under construction, namely Fifth Avenue Place, One Gateway Place, Gateway Garden Heights, Gateway Garden Ridge and the Adriatico Residences, which include One, Two and Three Adriatico Place. An additional 3 are in the pre-selling stage. These are McKinley Park Residences, Otis 888 Residences and East of Galleria. Strategically located, built to world-class standards, and with comfort and convenience in mind, these properties offer mid-to-high residential options and premium office space for discerning clients.

RLC also owns and operates the Cebu Midtown Hotel and the Robinsons Apartelle. In partnership with the Intercontinental Hotels group, RLC also manages the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila and the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila. With these properties, RLC assures travelers of comfortable and well-appointed accommodations whether they are here for business or pleasure.

RLC maintains a commitment to help in the country's housing developments. With a current roster of 14 developments, they continue to make good on their promise to deliver quality, affordable housing for Filipinos. On the list are Robinsons Homes East, San Lorenzo Homes, Centennial Place, Robinsons Highlands, SouthSquare Village, Robinsons Vineyard, Manchester Midlands, Robinsons Hillsborough Point, Forest Parkhomes, San Jose Estates, Robinsons Residenza Milano, Bloomfields Davao, Fernwood Parkhomes and Bloomfields Tagaytay. These residential subdivisions can be found in Antipolo, Quezon City, Cavite, Pampanga, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

Regionally, JG Summit Holdings, Inc. has a significant stake in United Industrial Corporation Ltd., a majority stockholder of Marina Center Holdings and Singapore Land Limited (a major land holdings company in Singapore).

LITTON MILLS, INC.

Litton Mills is the country's foremost integrated textile mill and strongest denim manufacturer. It produces denim fabric for use in garment manufacturing. Its products are sold mostly for export to countries such as the USA, Europe, Canada and Australia. Always up-to-date with technological advances and trends, Litton Mills has managed to hold its own in the international market. With an emphasis on durability, comfort and adherence to the highest manufacturing standards and a wide range of value-added services, Litton Mills counts a number of international signature brand names among its clients.

JG SUMMIT PETROCHEMICAL CORPORATION

JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation (JGSPC) is the country's first and largest integrated polypropylene and polyethylene petrochemical facility. It is engaged in the domestic manufacture of raw materials used for the plastics industry. This creates jobs for Filipinos and saves dollars for the local industry. Its range of Evalene brand polyethylene and polypropylene resins are used to manufacture everything from plastic shopping bags and lunchboxes to monobloc furniture and plastic toys. It is also used in the production of industrial materials such as moldings, pipes, films and packaging for food and beverages. Currently, JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation serves approximately 40% of the total local market requirements.

The petrochemical industry is one of the country's building blocks for industrialization. With a Quality Management System based on ISO 9002 and ISO 14000 certified standards, state of the art testing equipment and continued investment in both training and facilities, JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation is at the forefront of this field.

RobinsonsBank

Established in 1997, Robinsons Savings Bank (RSB) was created to service financial requirements of retail customers and suppliers, as well as individuals with small-to-medium scale enterprises.

RSB offers peso and US dollar deposit products, loans, foreign exchange and securities dealing, with one of the lowest non-performing loan ratios in the business. In the year 2000, it introduced the e-Wallet, a cash advance card granted to qualified employees with payroll accounts in RSB. It also offers 24/7 ATM services, Bills Payment Services, Remote Statement Services, Remittance Services, the Robinsons Storecard and many other products designed to make banking easy and convenient.

In March 2002, Robinsons Bank acquired 20 branches of ABN-AMRO Bank, making it the country's 7th largest thrift bank.

AFFILIATES

From its first store that opened in December 2000, Ministop has quickly grown to 152 branches. Aside from offering a wide range of products at affordable prices, Ministop was also the first to introduce the dine-in corner where customers can enjoy freshly prepared food. Ministop is continuously expanding in order to service more Filipino consumers' needs and achieve its vision to become the leading convenience store in the country.

Hot Loops DONUTS

Hot Loops Donuts is a new division of Universal Robina Corporation. It started operations in 2004, offering nine distinct flavors that were sure to excite the Filipino palate. Hot Loops Donuts are now served and enjoyed in over a hundred distribution outlets, and it continuous to grow as the company adds fun and innovative donut flavors to their menu every month.

Robinsons Retail Group

The Robinsons Retail group is involved in eight different retail formats that range from department stores, supermarkets, convenience stores, to Do-It-Yourself (DIY) outlets. From one store in 1980, the Robinsons Retail Group has become the Philippines' second largest retailer with a total of 246 stores across the country.

SUMMIT MEDIA

Summit Media launched its first magazine in 1995 with Preview, catering to women passionate about fashion and beauty. Today, it produces 21 magazines that appeal to several audiences and cover multiple areas of interest. Summit Media has grown to become the leading magazine publisher in the country in both number of titles and circulation per category.

JobStreet.com

Since 1995, Jobstreet.com has grown to become one of the leading Internet Recruitment websites in the Asia-Pacific region, servicing over 200,000 corporate clients and more than 300 million jobseekers. With its latest feature of mobile SMS alerts, Jobstreet.com continues to improve its services and revolutionize the way job recruitment is done today.

COMPANY CALL

The JG Summit Senior Management includes representatives from two generations of the Gokongwei family. At the head is Mr. John Gokongwei, Jr., the company's founder and Chairman Emeritus. His younger brother, Mr. James L. Go, is currently the company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer while his son Lance Y. Gokongwei holds the position of President and Chief Operating Officer. The three men succeeded each other in these positions in January 2002, upon Mr. John's retirement as Chairman and CEO.

Challenges and Rewards

While JG Summit Holdings. Inc. is largely a family-run enterprise, the Senior Management are quick to point out that they treat it as a professional organization, where every member must carry his/her own weight. Leading by example, Mr. John stresses the importance of hard work, dedication and good values. Mr. John has been known to have his children begin with entry-level positions and work their way up based on performance. And as with any parent, expectations are high.

"We recognize our family, but at the same time our expectations of ourselves as professional managers are high. No one, not me or my sisters or my cousins are entitled to a free ride or tenure because they're family," says Lance. Mr. James in turn states, "In terms of family, we try to keep it close and keep visions and objectives aligned. Those who want to work inside must prove themselves with competence and dedication. Being a family member is not an automatic assurance of a high position."

Although family entrepreneurship is at the core of the business, Mr. John has always recognized the need to work with professionals in order to grow. From the earliest stages of the business, it has been regular practice to hire people with specialized knowledge in whatever field the company is branching out into. This is one of the key secrets to their success, especially in brand-building. In Mr. James' words, "For you to go into brand-building, you need professionals. So the company has always been half family, half professionals."

With foresight and careful planning, transition has been effected smoothly and successfully from one generation to the next, and from a family-owned business to a publicly-listed business. "When you start going public, you can no longer be a family business. You have to introduce good governance measures, excoms are formed, etc." Mr. James says. Good governance is a theme that Lance also expounds on: "Unlike in most families where succession is not discussed openly, in our family it has been discussed and planned out during a period of many years. In fact we engaged specialists like McKinsey consulting firm to help us plan out and execute on this transition phase from a family-owned and managed business to a publicly-listed business with a large family shareholder component and family at the board and senior management."

All this hard work and thoughtful planning has paid off. The enterprise continues to grow better and stronger year after year and family and the stockholders have been able to derive benefit from its success. These, the excom believes, are the best rewards.

What Makes them Tick?

The members of the senior management place a premium on education and practical life experience. Mr. James holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering from MIT while Lance graduated summa cum laude with a double degree in Finance and Applied Science from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. A collection of various academic titles are also scattered throughout the family. Mr. James laughingly says that in his own branch of the family, "the girls have PhDs, the boys only have masters" (both his daughter and wife have PhDs while his son is now working on an MBA).

While these hardworking gentlemen never slack off on the job, they understand the value of being well-rounded individuals and make sure to find time for family and for themselves. They clearly understand the danger of all work and no play and are careful to balance one and the other.

Mr. John believes in the value of traveling, saying "you cannot learn much by staying in one place". He travels often, taking the family with him when possible. He also stresses the importance of reading, and is known to spend at least two hours a day on it. Mr. James enjoys listening to audio books while on the treadmill and Lance remembers being given a small allowance but being allowed to buy whatever book he wanted on Sunday bookstore trips. All three make it a point to spend time with their families regularly. While talk of work may inevitably creep into their Sunday lunch get-togethers, they maintain a clear division between the office and the home.

Looking Ahead

As JG Summit Holdings Inc. celebrates its 50th year, the senior management shares some thoughts about their visions for the company's next 50:

Mr. John: "A hope that the 2nd generation continues and surpasses the job that was started 50 years ago. They have the resources and experience."

Mr. James: "It is an organization that will continue to innovate and evolve because it consists of a company that has a good group of leaders that possess good values and vision."

Lance: "The key word is that we have to endure. To endure, I think you need to grow. You have to continue to innovate. Also, you must be able to maintain a good corporate reputation (your brands and services) and personal reputation."

Mr. John believes that the Philippines is losing its competitive edge and cautions that we need to wake up before we get left behind. Mr. James believes that the answer may lie in innovating and evolving, both to meet the needs of the times and to adjust to the current strengths of the country. Since we are no longer strong in industry, it may be time to shift into services such as business outsourcing and non-capital intensive "businesses of the mind", such as education, biotechnology, healthcare and tourism.

Both Mr. James and Lance stand ready to face the challenges that the company will be facing in the coming years. Mr. John is, in turn, looking forward to mentoring succeeding generations in the fine art of good business. All three share the common goals of making a difference, remaining competitive, and adding value to and improving the quality of Filipino life.

GROWING WITH GOKONGWEI GUIDANCE

Through his vision, astute businessman John Gokongwei, Jr. conceived an undertaking to support education projects in the Philippines. In 1992, he and brothers Henry Go, James Go, Johnson Robert Go and sister Lily Ngo-Chua donated portions of their JG Summit shares to fund what is known today as the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation.

The foundation's introductory project was the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation Technical Training Center, established in 1999 with a vision to "educate a world-class Filipino engineer capable of developing an industrially strong Philippines." Today, the masteral training center serves as an educational institution for the country's leading engineering graduates where technical courses are granted as scholarships by the foundation.

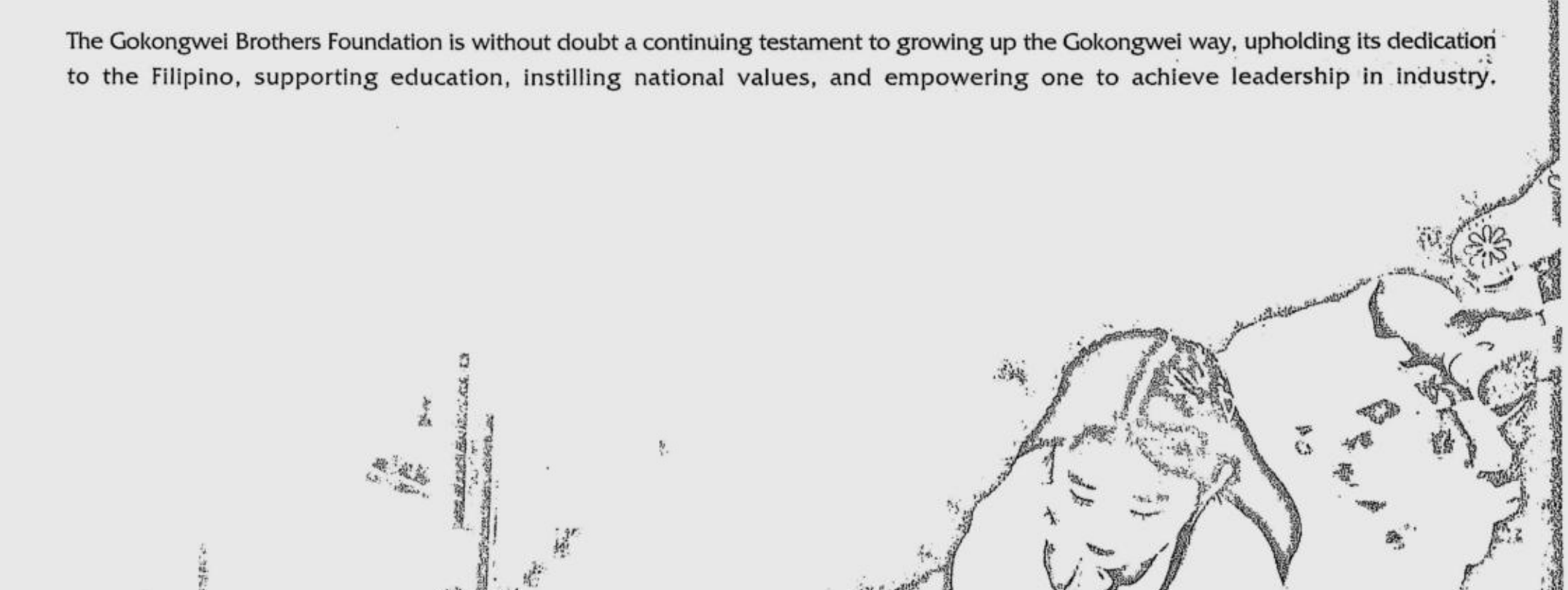
The foundation's succeeding venture was set in motion in July 2000 known as The Children's Library, providing books, multi-media equipment, and educational activities in various public libraries in Metro Manila.

The foundation also supports building programs of Xavier School, Immaculate Conception Academy, De La Salle University, the University of Asia and the Pacific and San Carlos University and has donated the prime property on which the Edsa Shrine now stands.

Furthermore in 2002, the John Gokongwei School of Management (JGSOM) was established through an endowment to the Ateneo de Manila University. A regional powerhouse, the school is recognized as a center of excellence and leadership in undergraduate business education, molding students into the country's next generation of entrepreneurs who are technically proficient, global in perspective and guided by a strong set of core values.

Presently, the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation owns 17% of JG Summit Holdings, Inc., and its funding is derived by cash dividends from it.

The Gokongwei Brothers Foundation is without doubt a continuing testament to growing up the Gokongwei way, upholding its dedication to the Filipino, supporting education, instilling national values, and empowering one to achieve leadership in industry.



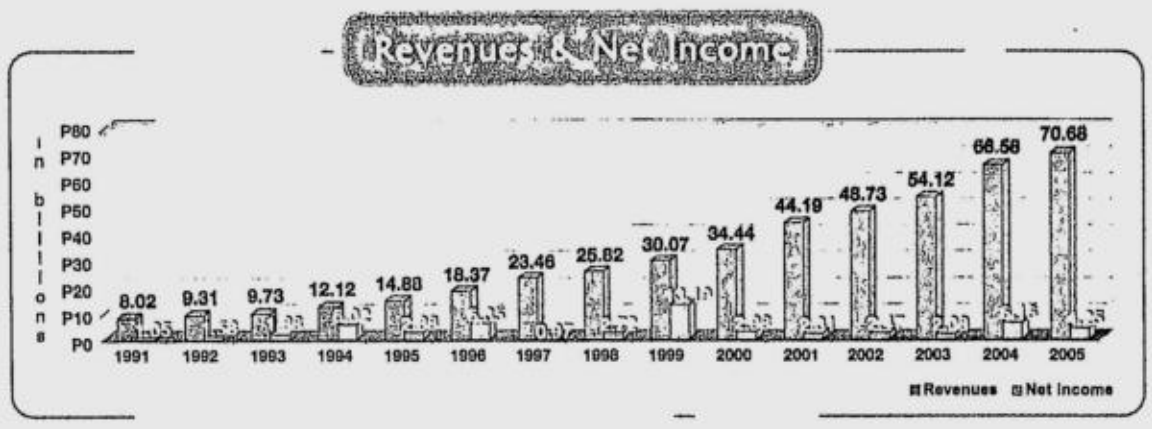
THE SECRET TO THEIR SUCCESS

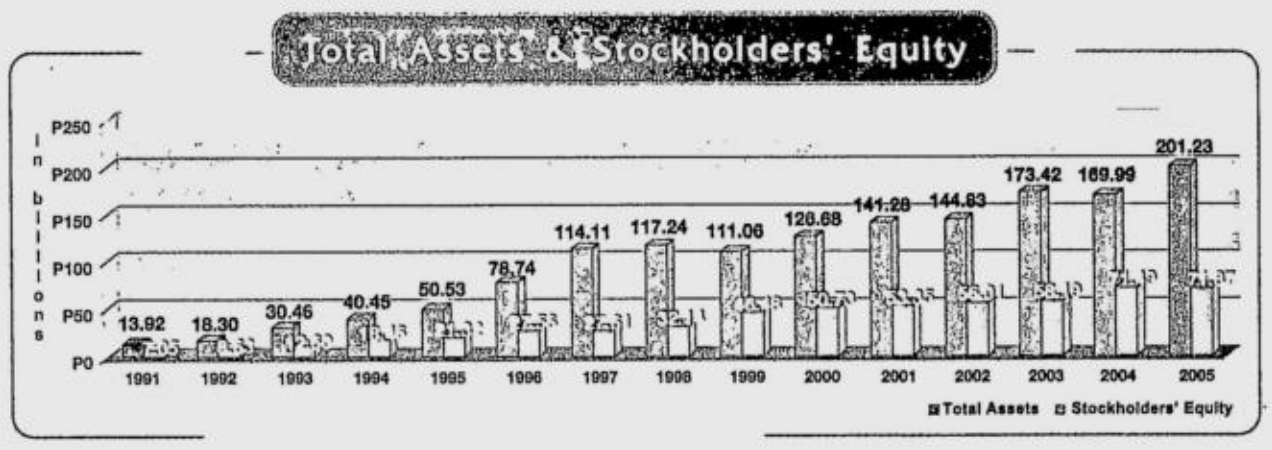
The 1950s were a golden age for the Filipino entrepreneur. Import restrictions paved the way for a boom in locally manufactured goods and it was in this era that many local enterprises were established. Unfortunately, import controls were lifted a decade later causing many of the fledgling businesses to fold. Later on, government upheaval, the Asian Crisis, import liberalization and various economic booms and busts continued to create trouble for Filipino businesses. Notable exceptions to this were the ventures put up by Mr. John Gokongwei, Jr.

Weathering "decontrol", devaluation and several political and economic crises, Mr. John's companies have, for the most part, not only survived but also thrived. How did he manage where so many others failed? The answer lies in a unique combination of industriousness, integrity and innovation. From CFC onwards, the Gokongwei businesses have always anticipated the needs of the Filipino consumer. They have concentrated on addressing these needs, offering affordable local alternatives to products and services traditionally provided by multinationals and monopolies. Pioneering the concept of the Filipino brand name, they have also paved the way for other local businesses to follow suit. Maintaining a policy to steer clear of all things political has helped keep business afloat, regardless of who may be in power at any given time. This apolitical position has allowed Gokongwei to shatter the myth that business success in the Philippines is dependent on political connections. By taking a neutral stance, his enterprises have proved that business success is a product of what you can do and not whom you know.

Keeping a finger on the pulse of the people has allowed the Gokongwei businesses to progress with the changing times. These companies continuously improve their products and services by being mindful of arising market needs, whether it be in snack foods, telecommunications, airlines or shopping malls. And they will continue to look ahead in the years to come, constantly finding new ways to better our quality of life.

JG Summit Historical Performance





TIPS FROM MR. JOHN

His business successes have been closely chronicled. Early in the game, his groundwork with Universal Corn Products, Inc. was well established. In the late 1970's, he became the focus of media attention through the controversies with San Miguel Corporation. And in the founding of JG Summit Holdings, Inc., he has pioneered breakthroughs in key industries and is now regarded as one of the original taipans of Philippine business. Here, business mogul Mr. John Gokongwei, Jr. shares small but valuable pieces of practical business and personal advice that span five decades, allowing one to take a leaf out of the tycoon's very own book.

1. Expand your mind through traveling and reading.
"I travel around the world at least once a year to see what others are doing. I do a good two hours reading a day, mostly about how American business groups expand and develop. In fact, I get about 200 annual reports a year from foreign firms. "

-From "What Makes Johnny Run?" Insight Magazine, February 1979

2. It's cheaper by the dozen.
"The success of his Manila hotel project illustrates perfectly Gokongwei's business philosophy: identify the demand and provide the service/products to satisfy it, operate it cheaply, and then sell on volume basis. His hotel had the lowest per-room construction rate of any of the major new units built in Manila and it currently has the lowest operating costs. On the other hand, it generally had the highest occupancy level following aggressive marketing policies in Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong."

-From "What Makes Johnny Run?" Insight Magazine, February 1979

3. Satisfy life's necessities first.
"I think I've always wanted to be in the food business," he said. "I don't have the make-up or the patience to deal with something that I didn't consider essential to human living. I mean, I never saw myself going into, say, public relations or the movies...my basic desire and decision was to work in the field of food production. That never changed."

-From "Who Is Gokongwei and Why Is He Doing All Those Nasty Things to San Miguel?" Outlook Magazine, 1976

4. Lead by example.
"If you want your people to work hard, you must work hard yourself." Typically, he works from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., though management meetings sometimes push that closer to midnight.

-From "The Man Who Wanted More," Asiaweek, December 22, 1979

5. Don't spoil the kids.
"I sometimes spank my children except for Lance. I don't spoil them. I don't want them to have plenty of money." Indeed he plans to plough his own money into a foundation instead of transferring it by inheritance. Joan Robina, after whom the biggest company in the group was named, works at URC as a clerk, "earning minimum wage."

-From "The Man Who Wanted More," Asiaweek, December 22, 1979

6. Hold people accountable but reward performers.
"We're very strict here. We have forecasts, goals, and a budget. If a budget is not met, we go after the people concerned." But virtue has its rewards. For those in key positions who have generated profits for the companies, says a former Gokongwei employee, there are special envelopes on Chinese New Year that contain 'staggering sums,' enough to take a trip to, say, Hong Kong.

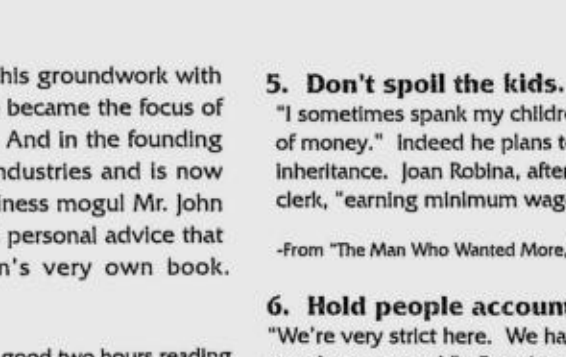
-From "The Name Is Gokongwei," Goodman, June 1976

7. Choose your partner well. Of his wife Elizabeth, to whom he hurried home on March 19 even when his SMC defeat was crashing down upon him – the day was their 18th wedding anniversary, the newspapers faithfully reported – he says: "The kind of woman one doesn't have to quarrel with; so refined she doesn't have to bother with things beneath her."

-From "Who Is Gokongwei and Why Is He Doing All Those Nasty Things to San Miguel?" Outlook Magazine, 1976

8. Be frugal.
His modest 21st floor office (of the PCI Bank Headquarters in Makati), previously used by a passive director, became too small for the work he did at the bank. A bigger office is being readied – but not at his bidding. He seems uneasy with the rather well-heeled ways of bankers there. Told what was spent on beverages in the executive lounge, he started making his own tea.

-From "Big and Getting Bigger," Asiaweek, August 12, 1988



9. Love yourself.
Asked who he would like to be reincarnated as, he answers: "Me."

-From "Life According to John, Lance, Robina," Philippine Star, August 2, 2000

JGSHI Movers and Shakers

1st Row (L-R)

Patrick Henry Go
Director, JG Summit Holdings, Inc.
1st VP Sales & Marketing, JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation

Frederick D. Go
EVP & Group General Manager, Robinsons Land Corporation

Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng
Publisher, Summit Media
General Manager, Jobstreet.com & Summit Billboards

Lance Y. Gokongwei
President & COO, JG Summit Holdings, Inc.

Robina Gokongwei-Pe
Group Genral Manager & SVP, Robinsons Retail

Vincent Henry Go
Group General Manager, Universal Robina Corporation: Agro Industrial Group

Johnson Robert Go, Jr.
Director, JG Summit Holdings, Inc
General Manager, Litton Mills

2nd Row (L-R)

Charles A. Lim
GSM Business Unit Head, Digital Telecommunications Phils., Inc.

Reynaldo Y. Gerongay
President & CEO, Robinsons Savings Bank

Marilu M. Alferez
SVP & General Manager, Housing & Land Development Division, Robinsons Land Corporation

Bienvenido S. Bautista
EVP & Managing Director Universal Robina Corporation (Branded Consumer Foods Group: Phils.)

Policarpio B. Pau, Jr.
LEC Business Unit Head, Digital Telecommunications Phils., Inc.

Brian M. Go
Chief Finance Officer, Universal Robina Corporation (China)

3rd Row (L-R)

Wilfredo A. Paras
Business Unit General Manager, JG Summit Petrochemical Corporation

Michael S. Shau
Business Unit General Manager, Packaging Division, Universal Robina Corporation (Phils.)

Ellison Dean C. Lee
Business Unit General Manager, Flour Division, Universal Robina Corporation (Phils.)

Cornelio S. Mapa, Jr.
General Manager, Commercial Centers Division, Robinsons Land Corporation

Rene P. Cabati
Business Unit General Manager, Sugar Division, Universal Robina Corporation (Phils.)

Danilo E. Ignacio
General Manager, High-Rise Buildings Division, Robinsons Land Corporation

Patrick O. Ng
EVP & Managing Director, Universal Robina Corporation (International)

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General Manager,
High-Rise Buildings Division,
Robinsons Land Corporation

Patrick O. Ng
EVP & Managing Director, Universal Robina Corporation (International)

ONWARDS TO THE NEXT 50 YEARS!

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ALCATEL

ASIA-PACIFIC CHARTERING PHIL., INC.

BOXBOARD CONTAINERS CORPORATION

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Art of How pack

CECON
C-E Construction Corporation

Chengdu George Food Enterprises Co., Ltd.

citigroup

ConAgra Foods

CREDIT SUISSE

CYGNUS INDUSTRIES INC.

Deutsche Bank

DONG YANG FOOD MACHINERY CO.

Equitable PCI BANK
Your Bank of Choice

ERICSSON
TAKING YOU FORWARD

eurosicma

Flexible Packaging Product

FUJI
FUJI MACHINERY CO.,LTD.
Distributed By: MACHINE TECHNOLOGY ASIA, INC.

GE

HSBC
The world's local bank

HUAWEI

IMAFORNI
The basic ingredient

ING

ISHIDA
ISHIDA CO.,LTD.
MACHINE TECHNOLOGY ASIA, INC.

JPMorgan

logicaCMG

METROBANK

NISSIN

PIONEER

Prudential Guarantee

SBC
Bottling & Canning
ASIA

SECURITY BANK

SIPA
Plastic Packaging Systems

SOCIETE GENERALE
Corporate & Investment Banking

SOLLICH

TFI
TANSHOO TECH

TCP 科瑞股份有限公司
TCP PIONEER INCORPORATED

UBS

VIETNAM J.S. PLASTIC PACKAGING CO., LTD

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PARTNER

Constant PACKAGING CORP.

FRANZ HAAS • MONDOMIX • STEINHOFF

Marubeni

MONOLITH CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ORIENTAL ASSURANCE

PT. Bella Prima Perkasa
Jakarta - Indonesia

SITA

ABC
Iba Tayo!

COMMUNICATIONS, INC

ARLO ALUMINUM CO., INC.

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MANILA

BusinessWorld

CAVITE PACKAGING CORPORATION

CERAGON

COLUMBIA
Columbia Wire and Cable Corporation

COREN DIGITAL PRINTS

FEDERAL PHOENIX
ASSURANCE CO., INC.
BE ASSURED!

Filipinas PalmOil Processing, Inc.

GMA

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HKK INDUSTRIAL SERVICES
Singapore

Health Plan Phils., Inc.

International Elevator & Equipment, Inc.

MALAYAN INSURANCE

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MediaVest

MIASCOR CATERING

neuron

PC&V

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILAM INSURANCE

PHILAM LIFE

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

RCBC

SINCERE

SUPERSONIC SERVICES, INC.

VAZ BUILT
The Total Home Builder

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SPORTS / A21

Brian Villoria in shock after disastrous defeat to Mexico's Romero

NEWS/A4

NPA orders no attacks on Mayon troops, offers help in relief efforts

ACROSS / A13

Ex-jueteng operator claims regional/ provincial cops now running illegal game

SATURDAY SPECIAL / F1

Nestor Torre on 'Square Off': Defensor, Escudero boxed in by TV show's debate format

Bush: New plan to go after int'l 'kleptocrats'

WASHINGTON—CALLING HIGH-LEVEL CORruption an obstacle to democratic and economic progress abroad, President George W. Bush announced on Thursday a new plan to "deter, prevent and address" the practice.

The plan "identifies critical tools to detect and prosecute corrupt officials around the world, so that the

BUSH/ A15

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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★★ 7 se ol. 21 / No. 245 P18 website: www.inq7.net

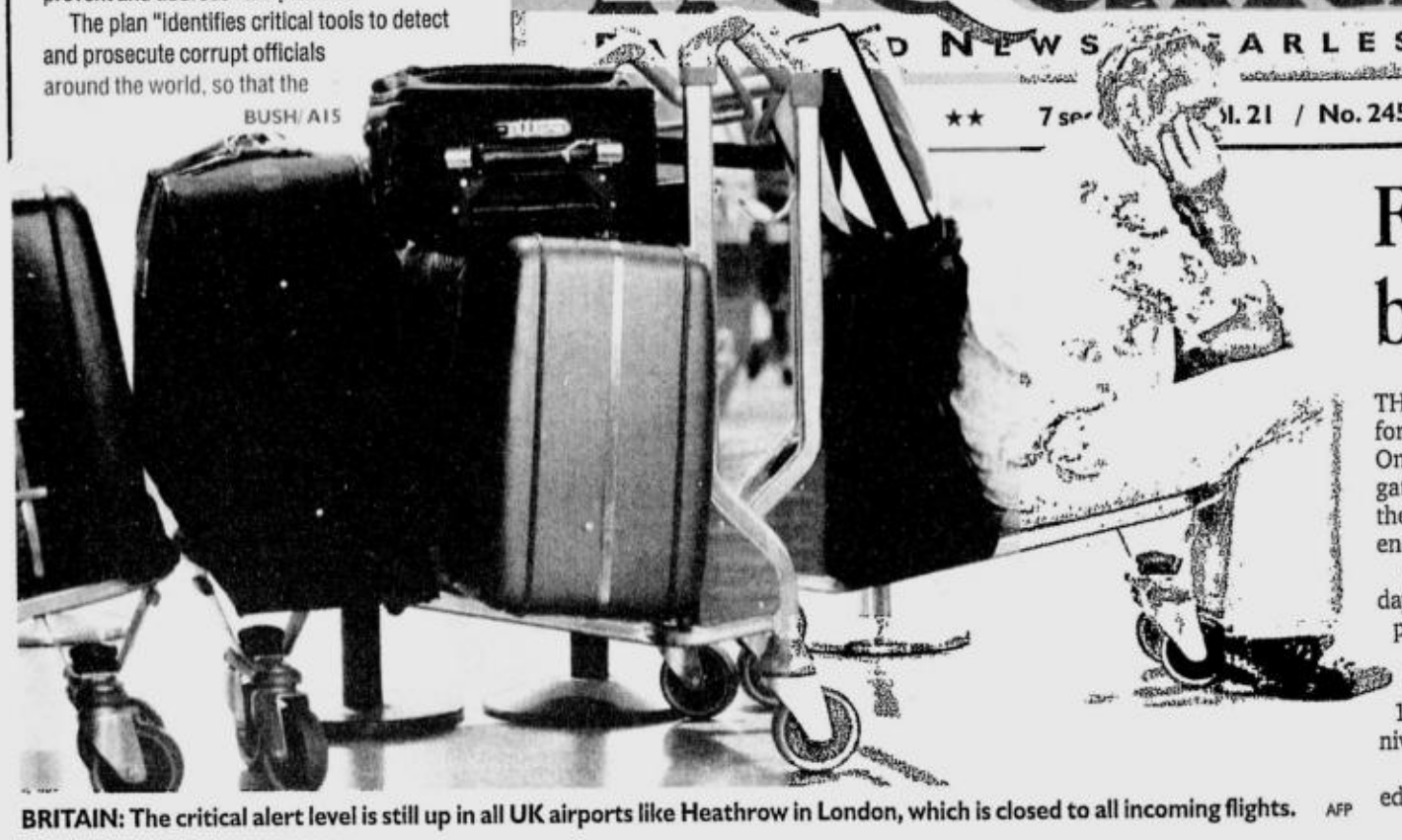
Actor likes nice ring of 'Governor Goma'

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

BULAKAN, BULACAN—Call him "Governor Goma."

Stickers bearing the phrase "Wanted: Bagong Bulakeño" are popping up in public areas and trans-

ACTOR/ A4



BRITAIN: The critical alert level is still up in all UK airports like Heathrow in London, which is closed to all incoming flights. AFP

Foiled plan may have been al-Qaida's 'Big One'

THE PLOT HAD BEEN IN THE WORKS for months, and its goal was horrific. One after another, according to investigators, planes would have exploded in the sky, sending hundreds of men, women and children to their deaths.

Counterterrorism officials said Thursday that the plan thwarted in London appears to bear the fingerprints of al-Qaida, and may even have been "the Big One" they have been dreading since Sept. 11, 2001, particularly as the five-year anniversary of the carnage approaches.

More than 20 people have been arrested, terror threat levels have been raised to some of their highest levels, and hundreds of flights have been canceled worldwide. *(See story on Page A19.)*

"In terms of scale, it was probably designed to be ... a new Sept. 11," said Jean-Charles Brisard, a French private investigator who works with lawyers of many Sept. 11 victims. "It involved the same tools, the same transportation tools and devices."

Rohan Gunaratna, a terrorism expert at Singapore's Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies, said everything known so far points to involvement by Osama bin Laden's terror group.

FOILED PLAN/ A6

Terror haunts RP anew

Going to US? No hand carry, liquids

By Nikko Dizon

AIRPORT AUTHORITIES YESTERDAY discouraged passengers bound for the United States from purchasing items of soft or fluid consistency, such as perfumes and lotions, from the airport's Duty Free shop.

This is to avoid being inconvenienced at the final security check since items of this kind have been banned inside the aircraft cabins of US-bound flights and US carriers.

"We already have an advisory that gels and liquids are prohibited in the aircraft cabin. Since they have been advised, passengers should refrain from buying (items of similar kind) here at the airport," said Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

Cusi said the Miaa had not banned hand-carried bags.

Liquid beverages, shampoo, suntan lotion, creams, toothpaste and the like will have to be placed in the checked-in luggage or will have to be discarded.

The US carriers operating at the Naia are Northwest Airlines and Continental

GOING/ A6

UNITED STATES: Wall-to-wall people wait in line to go through security at the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas where, like all airports across the country, security is tighter after the British police foiled the terror plot on Thursday. AP

Gov't raises nationwide security alert

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

THE FEAR IS BACK.

Saying it was taking no chances, the Arroyo administration yesterday raised a nationwide security alert to thwart fresh terrorist strikes after Britain uncovered a plot to blow up transatlantic planes simultaneously in the air.

In a series of directives, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered a heightened alert at airports, seaports and other public transport places around the country and the convening of the government's Anti-Terrorism Task Force to discuss government response to any terror threats.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that so far, there was no change in Ms Arroyo's travel plans, including her foreign trip to Finland next month for the Asia-Europe Summit.

Security officials said they were monitoring the situation closely.

"We are taking preemptive actions, we have tighten the checking of airports, we have intensified intelligence gathering right now," said police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, for his part, warned the conflict in Lebanon would heighten the risks of terrorist attacks in the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia.

Talking with reporters while visiting Cebu, Ms Arroyo said authorities should "keep in touch with their international counterparts to probe the extent of this plot."

"It is important that everybody cooperates and everybody stays alert," she said. "The whole world is vulnerable, ter-

TERROR/ A6

No device yet to detect liquid explosive

PHILIPPINES: The Naia is on heightened alert, a level lower than full alert, indefinitely, say authorities. Cops inspect the contents of a hand luggage. AP

WASHINGTON—DESPITE KNOWING for years that liquid explosives posed a threat to airline safety, security agencies have made little progress in deploying technology that could help defend against such attacks, security experts say.

Since September 2001, the federal government has hired tens of thousands of government screeners and upgraded metal detectors and X-ray machines. But most of the equipment is still oriented toward preventing a metal gun or other easily identifiable weapon from being carried aboard; it cannot distinguish shampoo from an explosive.

James Jay Carafano, senior fellow at Heritage Foundation in Washington and an expert on domestic security, said that in the last year, officials at the highest levels of the department recognized the seriousness of the threat posed by liquid explosives and had been pushing aggressively to introduce equipment that could help.

NO DEVICE/ A6

Palparan not slowing down into 30-day homestretch

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE CONtroversial Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan is due to wrap up his 33 years of military service on Sept. 11 when he turns 56, but he is not easing up on his hunt for communist insurgents.

The targets in the run-up to Palparan's retirement are the towns of Rizal and Bongabong in Nueva Ecija; the city of Malolos and the towns of Angat, Hagonoy and Calumpit in Bulacan; and the towns of Minalin and Floridablanca in Pampanga.

"The effort to cleanse Central Luzon is continuing," said the chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division based in Nueva Ecija. "It's a base of rebels who are supported by militant groups. The anti-insurgency drive is being done to help the people move freely and without threat to their economic activities."

Palparan said soldiers would be able to focus on the eight targets because the job in

PALPARAN/ A5

Lesson for bickering pols: In crisis, OFWs bond

By Nikko Dizon and Christine O. Avendaño

FILIPINO POLITICIANS ENGAGED IN endless bickering may pick up a lesson or two on unity from the thousands of Filipino workers fleeing the war in Lebanon.

"In a crisis situation, Filipino workers bond [with one another] even if they are strangers. And they are really unified," Ida Mae Fernandez, Manila project officer of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Fernandez said the IOM representatives in Damascus, Syria, described the Filipinos as "very responsible."

"They take care of themselves and they are also clean," she said.

Simply put, the Filipinos did not need "nannies" in Damascus and were not reduced to helplessness even if the war was putting their lives at risk.

For their food, they requested IOM workers for ingredients and cooked their meals themselves, Fernandez said.

And they expressed themselves well in English—whether fluent or broken—so that during medical examinations, they were able to clearly tell IOM doctors what was ailing them, she said.

"In emergency situations, it's always a challenge when humanitarian workers and the [recipient of aid] cannot understand each other. Language is a big thing," Fernandez said.

All these helped to ease the load of the harried IOM workers who have to attend to thousands of evacuees of varying nationalities.

"Definitely, this makes the work easier. [The humanitarian workers] can move on to other cases right away. You only have to give [the Filipinos] the basic needs. They don't need nannies," Fernandez said.

Next to Sri Lankans, Filipinos comprise the second largest group of evacuees fleeing Lebanon.

The IOM, a Geneva-based humanitarian organization, has set aside $10 million for the repatriation of 10,000 evacuees.

It has brought home more than 2,000 overseas Filipino workers on the request of the Philippine government.

LESSON/ A15

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains which may trigger flashfloods and landslides over western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of the country will have cloudy skies with rainshowers or thunderstorms.
COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/11/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Bagulo	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Antiterror bill approval urged

Congress leaders seek immediate enactment of proposed measure

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA and other leaders of Congress yesterday sought the immediate enactment of the proposed antiterror bill now pending in the Senate, saying its passage had become more imperative after British police foiled a plot to blow up trans-Atlantic planes to the United States in mid-air.

DE VENECIA

"The passage of the antiterror measure will tremendously boost the country's ability to fight terrorism," the Speaker said in a phone interview. "This will dispel the impression of the international community that we are a weakling in the fight against international terrorism."

De Venecia urged the new Senate leadership to treat the bill with the "sense of urgency" that the House had displayed in approving it.

"We need not wait for the next blast," he said, pointing out that US authorities had issued their highest-level terrorism alert for the first time after the discovery of the plot.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan and Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas, both principal authors of House Bill 4839 which seeks to define, suppress and prevent terrorism, said that the foiled bomb plot should serve as a wake-up call to Congress to finally approve the antiterror bill.

Libanan lamented that the measure passed by the House last April 5 remained pending in the Senate. He then called on Senate President Manny Villar to "exercise political will" and shepherd the bill's approval.

The lawmaker warned that the government would continue to be a "toothless tiger against terror threats" as long as the measure remained in the back burner.

"Terrorists will continue to lurk in our midst waiting to strike at the right time. The foiled bomb plot provided a more compelling reason for Congress to now enact the bill. Let's not delay its enactment any further," he said.

Cagas said that the foiled bomb plot once again raised the need for nations to be extra alert and vigilant against terrorism. "We've been victimized by terror groups not only through terror attacks but also by kidnapping and sabotage which adversely affected not only our security but also our economic growth," he said.

"We've been saying all along that terror can strike anytime and anywhere. We hope our appeal for the bill's passage now will be heeded by senators," he added.

HB 4839 defines acts of terrorism and gives security officials powers to arrest suspects without court warrants and to hold them for several days without charge.

Though the bill recommended Draconian steps, opposition lawmakers had succeeded in setting aside the death penalty as punishment for deadly terror attacks, managing to have it substituted with a life term.

The bill also seeks to increase the number of crimes for which authorities could apply for court permission to tap telephones.

It also seeks to punish offenses as conspiracy or proposal to commit terrorism, inciting to terrorism and acts that facilitate, contribute to or promote terrorism.

The congressmen's call was echoed in the Senate, including Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, who said the chamber should lose no time in passing the antiterror bill to give law enforcement agencies the legal framework to curb terrorism.

He said the Philippines would be in a better position to coordinate with other countries in combating global terrorism if it had an antiterror law.

The antiterror bill was among the five bills the senators agreed to give priority attention at last week's caucus, along with the P46.4-billion proposed supplemental budget, the automation of elections, the P10- billion compensation for human rights victims and the biofuels measure.

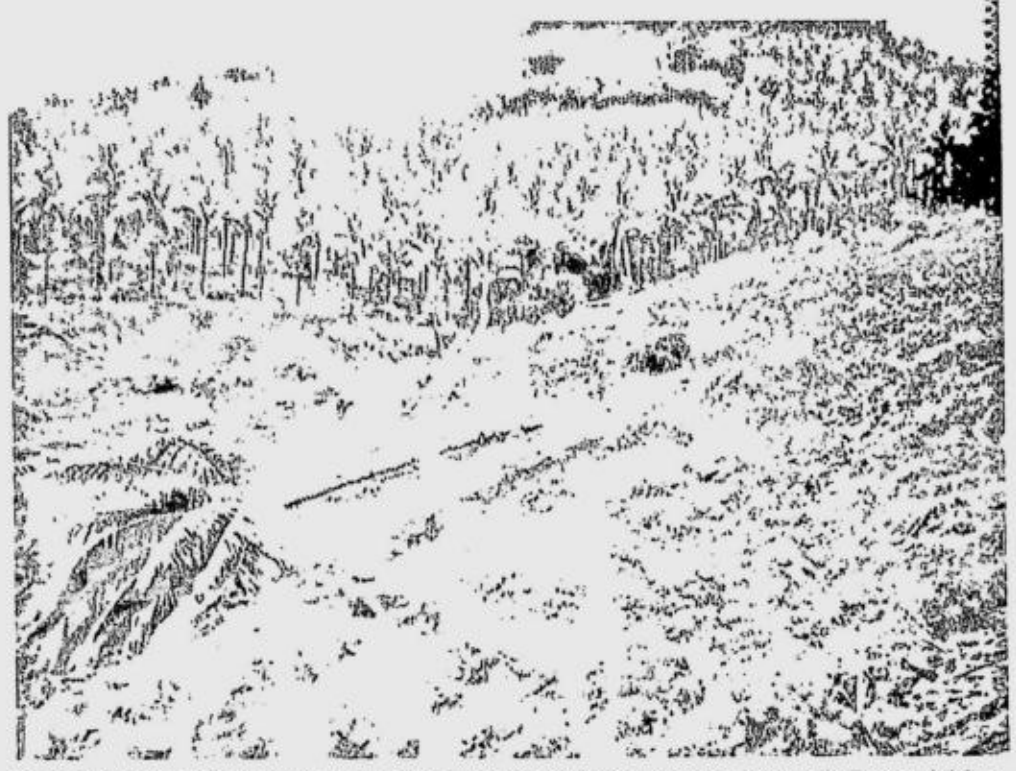
The Senate bill, authored by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, seeks to define terrorism and provide for the penalty of life imprisonment for acts of terrorism and conspiracy to commit terrorism and 12 to 20 years' imprisonment for planning to commit terrorism.

It also seeks to authorize electronic surveillance and seeks a longer detention period for terror suspects.

Sen. Richard Gordon for his part said the Senate was certainly not foot-dragging on the antiterror bill but was just careful that the measure would not provide authorities an excuse to commit human rights violations.

"We are intent on passing it but we have to tread carefully because this involves human rights," Gordon said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, one of the authors of the measure, and other opposition senators had expressed misgivings that the Arroyo administration would use the bill to suppress legitimate opposition.



COCONUT trees lie strewn on a hillside in Barangay Konel, Sarangani town in Davao del Sur following a landslide believed to be caused by a tornado. ELDIE S. AGUIRRE / MINDANAO BUREAU

Big waves batter South

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—A WOMAN AND her 2-year-old son died on Wednesday while trying to flee huge waves in Libertad, Misamis Oriental, raising the death toll to 18, officials said yesterday.

Thousands of families were rendered homeless as natural calamities—which started two weeks ago—continued to hit various Mindanao provinces.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the calamities were expected to last until February next year because of monsoon winds and typhoons.

Cleofas Rosas of the Pagasa in Southern Mindanao said the southwest monsoon, which began in June, would last until October.

"This is followed by the northeast monsoon, which starts in November until February next year," Rosas said, noting that in Southern Mindanao, the monsoon packed heavy rains and gusty winds of up to 22.22 kph.

Ted Sabugaa, Misamis Oriental provincial disaster officer, said Pagasa had alerted them about the monsoon phenomenon, prompting them to immediately evacuate people living on the coastline.

At least 978 families had been evacuated from the towns of Naawan, Manticao, Libertad, Laguindingan, Tagoloan, Villanueva, Jasaan, Balingasag, Lagonglong and Salay.

Huge waves, which had reached 20 meters inland, damaged about 103 houses, destroyed two dikes and a portion of a farm-to-market road, Sabugaa said.

As of yesterday, giant waves continued to batter coastal villages, while floodwaters had taken four lives last week.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno suspended fishing activities in affected areas.

Davao del Sur

At least six persons were killed on Tuesday when mud buried a house in Conel Village in Sarangani town in Davao del Sur.

On Wednesday, huge waves destroyed more than 100 houses in Davao City and Sta. Cruz town in Davao del Sur, according to Carmelito Lupo, director of the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) in Southern Mindanao.

In Zamboanga City, social welfare officer Francisco Barredo said at least 81 houses were flattened by huge waves while flash floods battered six villages. No casualties were reported.

Atilano Ade, chief of the OCD in Western Mindanao, said huge waves swept away 50 houses in Dipolog City and 17 more in Labason in Zamboanga del Norte.

In Tawi-Tawi, Gov. Sadikul Sahali said more than a thousand families were affected by the waves that hit several villages on Thursday morning.

A child drowned while another went missing when waves hit the villages of Tubig Tanah, Lamion, Simandugit, Banaran Luukan and Sapah-sapah, all in Bongao town at around 2 a.m. Thursday.

In Sulu, Gov. Benjamin Loong said about 28 families vacated their houses in Parang. No casualties were reported.

In Cotabato City, members of the disaster coordinating council had agreed to suspend classes in the elementary and secondary levels, both in private and public schools, due to the worsening weather condition.

"It has been raining for several days now and many school grounds have been flooded posing danger to our children. That's why the council agreed to suspend classes anew," said Mayor Muslimin Sema.

Central Mindanao disaster officials said continuous rains would cause more flooding in low-lying areas, similar to the one that occurred in Makilala, North Cotabato last week, killing a family of five, as well as a motorist.

In Maguindanao, motorists were stranded when floodwaters engulfed low-lying portions of the Narciso Ramos Highway that connects the province to Lanao del Sur.

Negros Occidental

A state of calamity had been declared in flood-hit San Enrique and Valladolid, while Pulupandan was set to make a similar declaration, according to the mayors of the three towns in Negros Occidental.

Also hit by the floods were Hinobaan, Cauayan, Pontevedra, Hinigaran and Binalbagan towns, as well as Sipalay, Himamaylan and La Carlota cities.

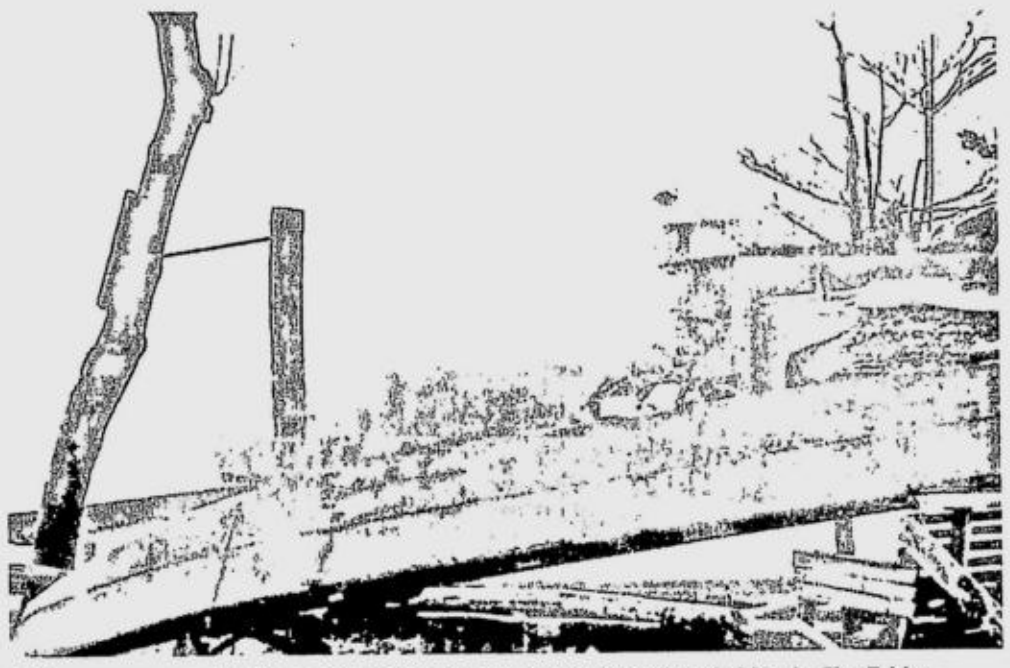
Strong winds and floodwaters since Wednesday damaged 629 houses and destroyed 120 others, affecting 48,720 people in eight towns and three cities in the southern part of the province, according to figures gathered by the INQUIRER from mayors of the affected areas and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office.

Mayor Ricardo Presbitero said a state of calamity had been declared in Valladolid after heavy rains, flooding, strong winds and big waves heavily damaged the shorelines of the coastal barangays of Palaka, Poblacion, Sagua Banua, Tabao Proper, Central Tabao and Bagumbayan.

Presbitero said damage to Valladolid's rice and vegetable farms amounted to P904,439.10.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon provided assistance in the form of rice, noodles and sardines. Medicines would also be sent.

With reports from Grace Cantal-Albasin, Dennis Jay C. Santos, Charlie C. Señase, Eldie Aguirre, and Julie Alipala, INQUIRER Mindanao; Carla P. Gomez, INQUIRER Visayas



BIG waves spawned by the south monsoon pound a seaside village in Maasin City Friday prompting local officials to evacuate residents to higher ground. JANI ARNAIZ / VISAYAS BUREAU

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US REPRESENTATIVE Henry Hyde meets local war veterans at the Manila American Cemetery in Taguig City Friday. PHOTO BY REM ZAMORA

'I was an ensign piloting an LCT into Lingayen Gulf'

By Volt Contreras

WORLD WAR II FIRST BROUGHT HIM TO the Philippines in his 20s, and now the global war on terror added to his reasons for coming back some 60 years later.

Illinois Rep. Henry Hyde, 82, led a visiting US congressional delegation in paying homage to his fallen WWII comrades yesterday at the Manila American Cemetery, before meeting tonight with President Macapagal Arroyo on RP-US partnerships particularly in the fight against terror.

Hyde, chair of the US House International Relations committee, along with four other US congressmen, opened their three-day visit with a wreath-laying ceremony at the American war memorial shortly after landing at around 2 p.m.

The rest of the delegation, all members of the committee, were Representatives Melvin Watt of North Carolina, Dana Rohrabacher of California, Jeff Flake of Arizona, and Eni F.H. Faleomavaega of American Samoa.

The US Embassy described Hyde, a member of the committee since 1982, as having figured in "crucial debates on how (the US) must respond" to the 9/11 terror attack. Under his watch, the House panel has also explored the threat of biological and chemical weapons to the US public.

But remembering a "savage war" in a much earlier era was his first order of business upon landing in Manila yesterday.

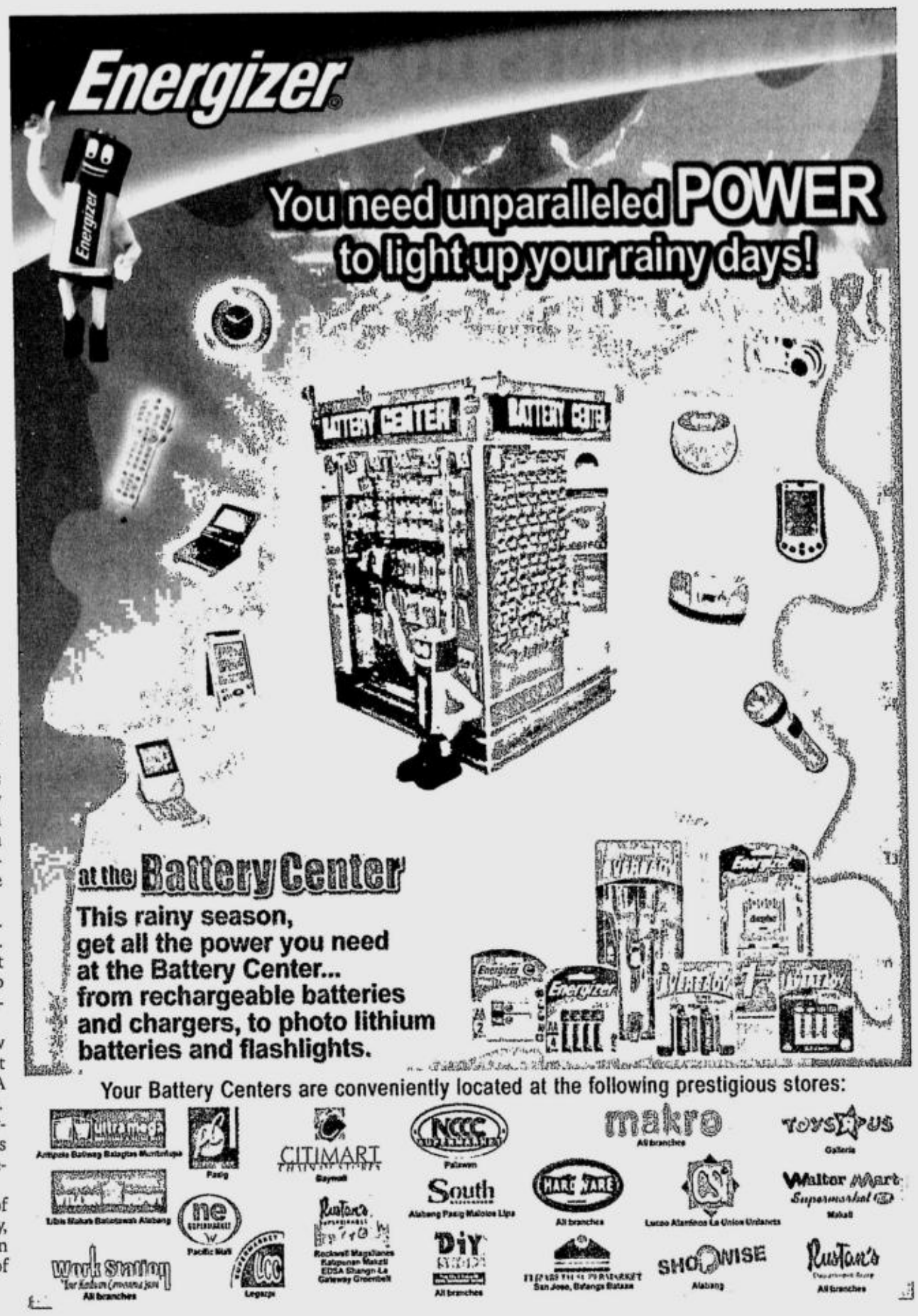
"Over six decades ago, not far from this cemetery, I was a young ensign in the US Navy piloting a landing craft tank into Lingayen Gulf," he said, recalling his participation in the 1945 "S-Day" landing that started the liberation of Luzon and then the rest of the country from Japanese forces.

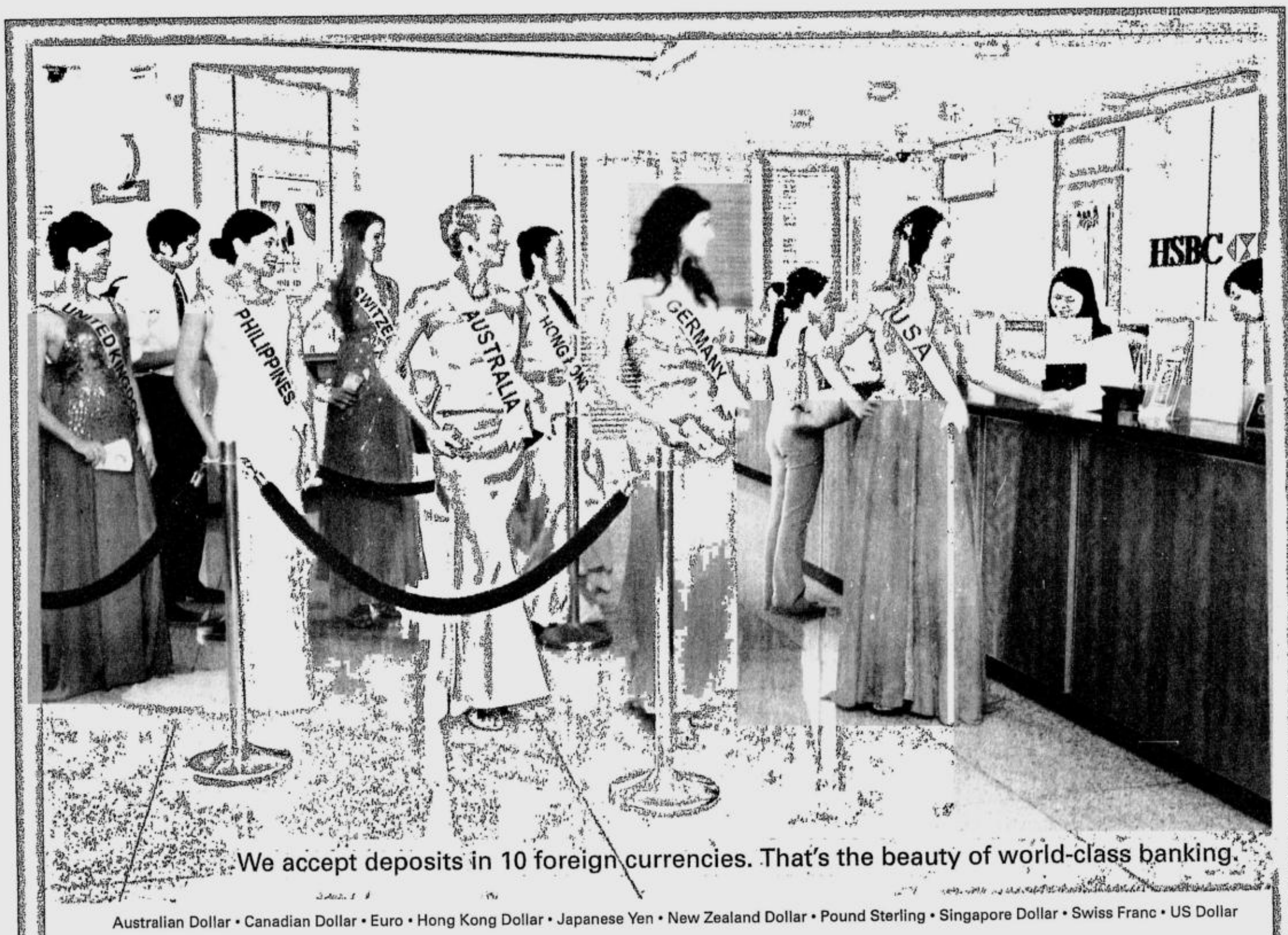
"You will forgive me for my reminiscences. The memories are strong and always with me. This will not surprise those who have fought together in battle, as the binding ties are deep and independent of time," he told an audience that included Filipino war veterans.

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said the lawmakers will also meet with members of the business community. A meeting with Ms Arroyo is scheduled tonight.

Facing reporters, Hyde said his touring party has been to South Korea also for meetings with its political leaders on terrorism and security concerns over North Korea.

"We will discuss the important issues of world terrorism which concerns everybody, the cooperation in our alliance; how you can be helpful, how we can be helpful," he said of his meeting with Ms Arroyo.





NPA orders no attack on soldiers, offers help

By Ephraim Aguilar and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI—THE COMMUNIST NEW People's Army has ordered its guerrillas to desist from attacking soldiers and police involved in relief work for Mayon evacuees, and offered to help in the humanitarian effort.

The NPA "will extend all possible assistance to agencies and organizations engaged in relief work, as well as to all the people affected by the volcanic activity," communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said.

Rosal made the statement as Mayon Volcano ended an apparent lull and unleashed two mild explosions and 27 volcanic quakes, prompting renewed warnings from scientists yesterday that the danger of a major eruption remained.

As the volcano rumbled back to life, a relief train sent by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Albay—called the "Mayon Express"—arrived here yesterday with loads of canned goods and used clothes for the evacuees.

Rolling in a day before Ms Arroyo's scheduled visit today, the train carried P10 million worth of confiscated smuggled items.

Clothes, luncheon meat

They included 40,800 cans of luncheon meat and 15,000 metric tons of used clothes seized by the Bureau of Customs, local social welfare officials said.

Five soldiers were wounded on Tuesday by rocket-propelled grenades fired by the NPA on troops manning the Army's 901st Infantry Brigade headquarters in Daraga, Albay.

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, Rosal, however, warned the Armed Forces of the Philippines against using the evacuation and relief efforts around Mayon "to control the movement of the population and commit more human rights violations."

Rosal rejected claims by the military that the soldiers at the Daraga headquarters were engaged in relief work.

"The Solcom (Southern Luzon Command) claim is a big lie. The Army headquarters is already near the border of Albay and Sorsogon, beyond Legazpi City and far from Mayon Volcano and areas affected by its activity. Nor is there an evacuation center anywhere near the headquarters," said Rosal.

Soldiers unarmed

Solcom spokesperson Maj. Jose Broso said that the headquarters was being used by military medical personnel helping the thousands of Mayon evacuees.

"Most of them are unarmed and noncombatants and yet (the NPAs) still littered the place with land mines," Broso charged.

Ms Arroyo has appealed to the rebels to refrain from attacks while the government was involved in relief work for the evacuees.

The NPA observed a de facto ceasefire in parts of the Bicol region earlier this year when Bulusan Volcano, in the neighboring province of Sorsogon, expelled ash clouds, causing an evacuation of nearby villages.

Eruption 'more likely'

Renato Solidum, head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said a hazardous eruption was "more likely" following the increased activity which Mayon showed during a 24-hour observation period ending yesterday.

"We should not get the impression that the volcano is calming," Solidum told Agence France-Presse, stressing the danger Mayon still posed to foothill towns and villages.

Volcanologists said the two explosions and the volcanic earthquakes indicated the continuing ascent of magma inside the volcano.

Collapsing lava chunks also triggered 368 tremors.

Resident volcanologist Eduardo Laguerta said that while it would be easy for people to think that the volcanic activity had waned, the indicators showed a hazardous eruption was still imminent.

He said Mayon was still in state of unrest and that the danger zone extending 8 km from the crater was still in force, affecting 13 villages in the critical southeast flank of the volcano.

Eruption just delayed

Solidum said Mayon had never started spewing lava without erupting soon thereafter, adding that the only difference in this case was that the eruption apparently was delayed.

The lull might have been a sign that pressure was building up in the volcano for an eventual powerful eruption, he said. *With AFP*

SMALL COMFORT: Justin Arias, 11 months old, at least gets all the space he needs to crawl at the Gogon Central School, which is one of 15 evacuation centers in Legazpi City set up since Mayon Volcano's lava flow exceeded the 8-km danger zone. EDWIN BACASMAS

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Correction

IN THE AUG. 9 issue, a front-page story—"House votes 54-24 to junk 7 of 8 impeach complaints"—erroneously described the occupation of an impeachment complainant. Leah Navarro of the Black and White Movement is a singer—not an artist.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 12, 2006
18th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Hb 1:12-2:4
Gospel: Matthew 17:14-20

A man approached Jesus, knelt before him and said, "Sir, have pity on my son who is an epileptic and is in a wretched state. He has often fallen into the fire and at other times into the water. I brought him to your disciples but they could not heal him."

Jesus replied, "You, faithless and evil people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus commanded the evil spirit to leave the boy, and the boy was immediately healed.

The disciples then gathered around Jesus and asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive out the spirit?" Jesus said to them, "Because you have little faith. I say to you: If only you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could tell that mountain to move from here to there, and the mountain would obey. Nothing would be impossible to you."

Commentary

The prophet Habakkuk cries out to God to see those who do wickedness and how they appear to flourish and rise, doing violence to the people of God. But God responds saying: "Write down the vision. Its time will come, wait for it. Those who do violence have no integrity but the just will live." This is the truth of the Word of God. Jesus is approached by a man begging for the life of his child who is demented and always trying to harm himself. Jesus heals the child, when his disciples cannot. They (and we) lack trust to face evil in the world. We are weak in faith and need to be converted as surely as the young child needs to be delivered from what harms him. Every generation must change.

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Actor likes nice ring of 'Governor Goma'

From page A1

port terminals in this town and other parts of the province, and residents are saying that the man behind these is actor Richard Gomez.

According to local folk and some of Gomez's relatives, the actor plans to seek an elective post in the province, and the stickers are intended to introduce his political slogan, which harps on the need for new blood in Bulacan politics.

Reached by phone yesterday, Gomez confirmed his intention to run for governor of Bulacan, but said the campaign stickers were a surprise.

"I had nothing to do with those," he said. "Some relatives told me they're from my supporters."

He said he had not met those supporters but was "very thankful" for their contribution.

Stella Suarez

Gomez's mother, the former actress Stella Suarez, traces her roots to Bulakan.

Dexter Funelas, whose mother is a second cousin of Suarez's, said Gomez met with his relatives in Bulakan last week and divulged his plan to seek an elective post in the 2007 elections.

Funelas, 38, said Gomez had yet to decide whether he would run for governor or for representative of the province's first congressional district.

Jeepney driver Frank Roque, of Barangay San Juan in the City of Malolos, has virtually covered his vehicle with the "Wanted: Bagong Bulakeño" stickers.

Roque said he was "100 percent" certain that Gomez was behind the stickers.

"Gomez is the only person we can call the 'new Bulakeño.' Almost all politicians here are known to us. [They are] the old guards, and Gomez is the new candidate," Roque said.

'Right time'

In 2001, Gomez ran for representative of the party-list group Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD). But he did not make the grade.

"It's the right time for me to give politics another shot," he said yesterday.

"*Pero mahirap ang laban natin ngayon* (But it will be a tough fight). The incumbent governor (Josie de la Cruz) is pitching for another candidate. Still, things can still change," he said. ***With a report from Marinel R. Cruz in Manila***

Palparan not slowing . . .

From page A1

the "critical areas" was almost done and barangay defense systems had been or were being set up.

But in Manila, Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador said President Macapagal-Arroyo should immediately sack Palparan for his "insensitive" statements that, according to the militant lawmaker, trivialized civilian deaths in the all-out war against communist insurgents.

Referring to Palparan's reported remark on Thursday that it would just be too bad if civilians were killed in the crossfire ("Sorry *na lang kung may madamay na sibilyan*"), Virador said: "This shows his total disregard for the right to life. It also shows that the administration is hell-bent on institutionalizing a climate of fear in Central Luzon."

The lawmaker also said Palparan should be made to answer accusations that he was "a virtual killing machine terrorizing people in Central Luzon."

"Palparan has been aptly called a butcher or executioner by activists and human rights workers for having command responsibility for the extrajudicial killings of activists in Mindoro island, the Samar provinces and Central Luzon," Virador said.

He said Ms Arroyo's "open praise" for Palparan showed that "we have a repressive and intoleraht administration."

ID system

The militant fisherfolk alliance Pamalakaya yesterday also railed at Palparan, calling for a formal inquiry into the ID system that he had purportedly imposed on residents of some villages in Central Luzon.

The call was aired in reaction to an INQUIRER report on Nueva Ecija residents' rush to secure a *cedula* (community tax certificate) to show to soldiers demanding proof that they are not rebels.

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpus said Palparan had committed "grave violation" of the 1987 Constitution and "usurped civilian powers."

"We strongly appeal to Senate President Manuel Villar and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. to rally [lawmakers] for a full-blown inquiry into a current event that smacks of military dictatorship and a throwback to the Spanish colonial era," Pamalakaya said in a statement.

Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said the probe should also call in the military brass starting with the Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, as well as Nueva Ecija and Bulacan officials.

In a radio interview, Palparan said he was happy that Nueva Ecija folk were "at least responding to their obligation" to secure *cedulas*.

But he said "other issues" regarding the ID system were "grossly exaggerated." He said his soldiers were operating only in areas suspected to be rebel-influenced.

In the same interview, Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III bewailed the "vicious propaganda" and said that if there were abuses by the military, he would be the first person to protest and to lead their prosecution.

Communist Party of the Philippines' spokesperson Gregorio Rosal also assailed Palparan for imposing the ID system.

Rosal said the system was similar to that imposed by the Spanish colonizers, the Japanese invaders and the martial law regime.

"General Palparan may be gloating now at the sight of terrified barrio folk scrambling for *cedulas*. But what the fascist general seems to forget is that the Filipino people have in the end always risen against tyranny and oppression," Rosal said in a statement.

'Cleared' areas

By Palparan's reckoning, these areas have been "cleared" or were "in the final clearing" of rebels: the towns of Norzagaray, San Ildefonso, San Miguel, Bulacan, Pandi and Sta. Maria in Bulacan; the towns of Guimba, Cuyapo, Lupao and the cities of Gapan and San Jose in Nueva Ecija; and the towns of Mexico, Lubao, Mabalacat and the cities of Angeles and San Fernando in Pampanga.

He said the focus had shifted to Rizal and Bongabong, where the rebels had supposedly withdrawn.

He added that the situation was "*alanganin pa* (uncertain)" in Angat and "*matindi* (intense)" in Malolos, Hagonoy and Calumpit because, he said, activists and communist rebels were "operating in the same areas."

Palparan singled out Barangay Mercado in Hagonoy, saying his troops would finish off the rebels in the area.

'Significant efforts'

The work in Calumpit was previously limited to intelligence efforts until the logistics officer of the 56th Infantry Battalion was ambushed there in July.

"We will make significant efforts there," Palparan said.

He said he had positioned permanent troops in Minalin following Monday's clash between 69th IB troops and the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, a breakaway communist group.

Palparan said that the rebels had stopped collecting "revolutionary taxes" in Angeles and San Fernando, and that leftist groups there would find it hard to reclaim these cities for their organizing work.

According to INQUIRER sources in the military, the Army has also set up blocking forces at the boundaries of Bataan and Zambales where rebels are said to be retreating.

Four clashes broke out there in the last two weeks.

"After the critical areas, the other areas will be easier to work on. The next commander [of the 7th ID] will have a less difficult job," Palparan said.

Still, he said, what he had done during his 11-month stint in Nueva Ecija was "not enough."

He also said he had no regrets in his military career.

As a reserve officer, Palparan was called to active duty in 1973. His first assignment—in Basilan and Sulu—lasted eight years.

Leftist groups have linked him to more than 500 cases of human rights abuse, mainly summary executions and forced disappearances, during his stints as commander of the 24th IB in Central Luzon, 204th IB in Mindoro and Romblon, and 8th ID in Samar and Leyte.

Palparan has denied wrongdoing in several interviews.

Only a few cases have prospered. Recently, a libel case was filed against him by legal organizations he had described as communist.

For all that, Palparan is not about to go slow even after his retirement.

"I will finish them off," he said in Filipino, adding that there were "many ways" to do so, including "inspiring the soldiers to hasten their work to win the minds of the people, to be on guard against communists."

Would he do that in another government post?

Palparan paused and said: "No comment. But I'm ready to serve." ***With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Norman Bordadora in Manila; Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon***

'We're headed for civil war'

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE NATION APPEARS TO BE DEscending into civil war, with the unabated killing of leftist activists and the tit-for-tat posturing of communist rebels and the government, peace advocates warned yesterday.

This scenario was what gripped the nation 20 years ago, when the bloodletting claimed the lives of people from all shades of the political spectrum, said the convenors of a group watching the observance of international humanitarian laws by armed combatants in the Philippines.

"Unless both the government and the CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front) agree to stop this spiral of violence, the 2007 elections will take place in a state of civil war," they said, adding:

"Government forces will pursue their bid to squash the electoral machinery of the national democratic Left, while the CPP-NPA conducts its own 'punishment' of politicians and security forces.

"Fear and impunity will rule, further distorting the electoral process and related institutions that have already been battered by unresolved controversies in the 2004 elections."

1986-87

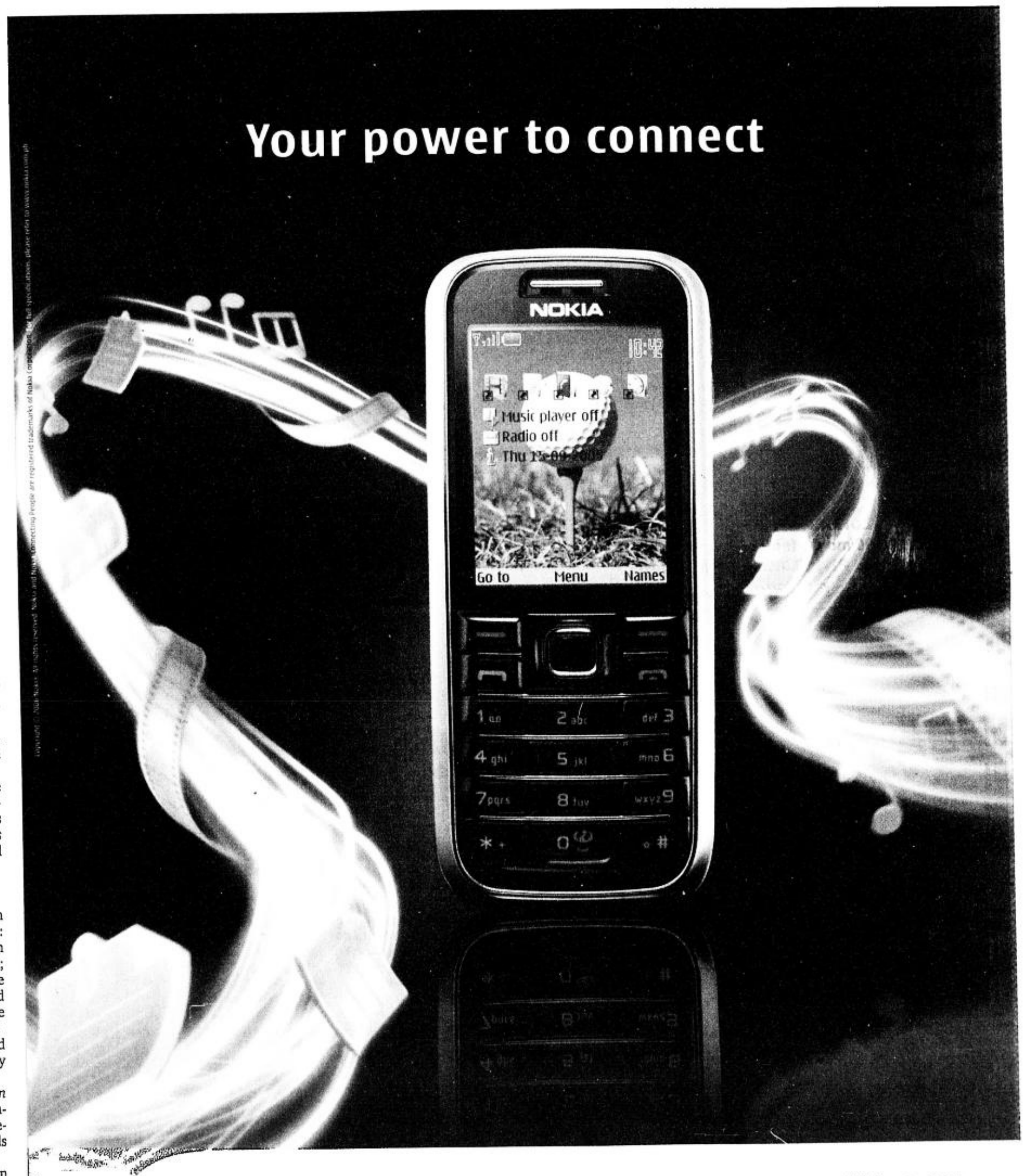
The peace advocates, among whom were academicians and church workers, belong to the Sulong-Carhrihl (Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law), which called for the cessation of political killings and the immediate suspension of military operations.

They said the situation today reminded them of the Philippines between the years 1986 and 1987.

"The basic difference is vigilantism at the time concentrated on the rural area. Now, the death squads are very selected in the targeting of open mass leaders," said Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer of the University of the Philippines.

"What is outstanding now is the sheer number of political assassinations of open mass leaders. We saw that in 1987, although at the time we were not sure if they were perpetrated by the Right factions in the military ... or the official military," she said.

Added Karen Tanada, executive director of the Gaston Ortigas Peace Institute: "There is a tendency for things to escalate. What we see is that it's going back to the situation that we had 20 years ago, in 1986 and 1987, when we also had such killings on both sides."



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Terror haunts RP anew

From page A1

rorism is an international evil. They (only) have to be successful once, we have to be successful 100 percent of the time. We must all work together."

Her marching orders to the authorities were to go for "target hardening" and "increase police visibility."

Ms Arroyo said the Philippines had had a long experience in fighting terrorism. "We have our own stories to tell, like we are now fighting terrorism in Sulu," she said.

The high alert coincided with a renewed military offensive in the south against the Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah, two extremist groups linked to previous terror attacks in the Philippines.

In its meeting, the task force decided to "intensify intelligence activities on possible terrorists and to heighten security in all airports, seaports and transportation terminals in light of the recent developments in the (United Kingdom)," said task force chair and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

The Philippines has been badly scarred by terrorist attacks.

At least 22 people were killed and more than 100 injured when groups identified by the police as Islamic extremists bombed the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and other public targets in Metro Manila in December 2000. More than 100 people were killed in the February 2004 bombing of Superferry 14 off Corregidor for which the Abu Sayyaf claimed responsibility.

"The government is taking extra precautions and we would like to appeal to the public to cooperate with the authorities and to bear with the inconvenience as we continue to work hard to ensure the safety of all our citizens," Ermita said in a statement.

Gonzales is the coordinator of the task force, which includes the intelligence bodies of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Coast Guard and the National Bureau of Investigation.

"What happened in London has given us more reason to pursue our own campaign against terrorists," Bunye said in a press conference in Cebu.

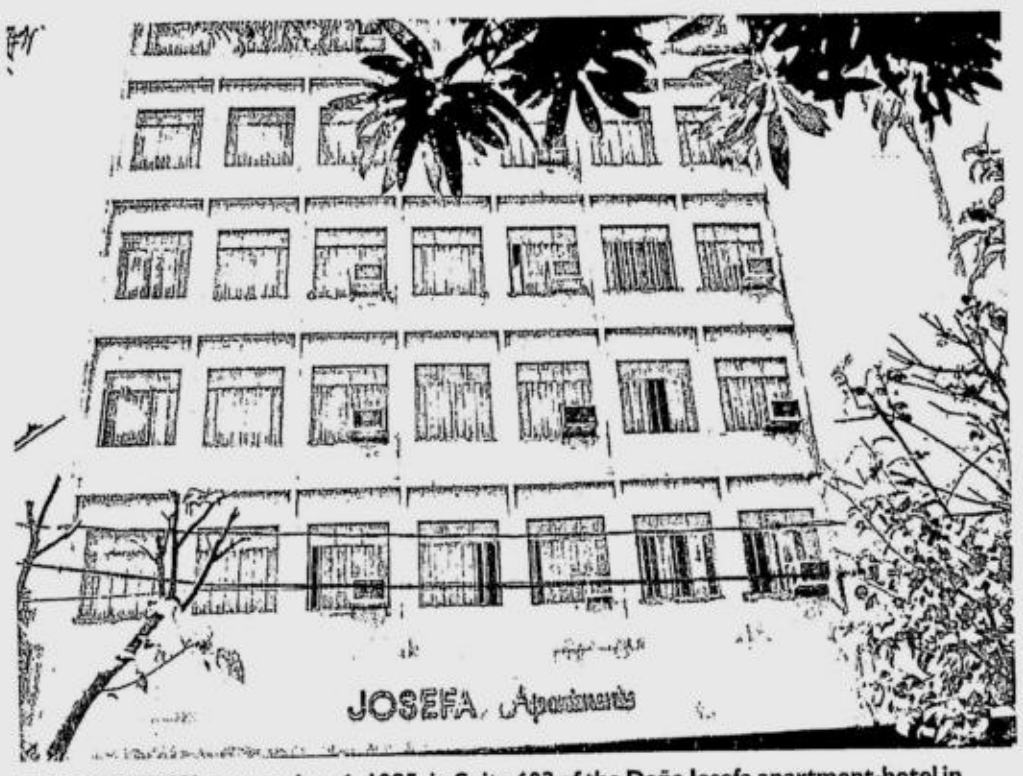
Timely reminder

Bunye said the bomb plot thwarted by British police was a timely reminder to all that the terror plot had not subsided.

"We are asking everyone to exercise extra vigilance especially in crowded places," said Bunye. "What is more important is for our citizens to be more patient in going through tighter security checks and be more cooperative by sharing information that could lead authorities in hunting down terrorists."

Ms Arroyo flew to Cebu to attend the 10th anniversary conference of the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac).

Ms Arroyo kept in touch with her top security officials last night to discuss the implications of the foiled transatlantic bomb plot.



THE MYSTERY began on Jan. 6, 1995, in Suite 603 of the Doña Josefa apartment-hotel in Ermita when a chemical fire broke out, which investigation later indicated that it was the first plot to blow American airliners out of the sky with liquid bombs. RYAN LIM

Senior Supt. Romeo Ricardo, head of the PNP Intelligence Group, said one of the police concerns was the "*gaya-gaya*" (copycat) mentality of local terrorists. Hence, police were not totally discounting the possibility of a terror strike, he said, noting that terrorists had a talent for creativity.

But to carry out such an attack would require sizable financial and human resources and use of suicide bombers, he said.

The good life

Ricardo said interrogations of suspected terrorists indicated they were not willing to go to the extent of blowing themselves up.

"Filipinos love the good life," Ricardo said.

Quoting local suspects, Ricardo said bombers would rather detonate a bomb by remote control rather than strap one on their bodies.

Immigration Regulation chief Edgardo Mendoza appealed to passengers to bear with "slight" delays before they could pass through immigration control.

"We appeal them to understand that we have to implement more security measures. This is for their own safety," Mendoza said in a phone interview.

He stressed that under the law immigration officers have full discretion to deny or refuse entry to foreigners they deem or consider as threats to national peace and security.

All 6 int'l airports

With the heightened alert, immigration personnel will closely focus on screening and profiling arriving and departing passengers to check for possible terror suspects, BI intelligence chief Faizal Hussin said.

This would entail close observation of passengers' appearance, behavior and even of their luggage, immigration officials said.

Mendoza said the heightened alert status applies to all immigration personnel nationwide. Aside from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, the country also has international airports in Mactan-Cebu, Davao, Clark, Laoag, Subic and Zamboanga.

There are also 35 seaports nationwide where vessels from other countries dock.

Under the new airport security restrictions, bags are also thoroughly inspected and everybody, whether passengers or airline and airport personnel, are subjected to a body frisk inside the Naia terminals.

At final security check, passengers are also asked to remove their shoes, belts and jackets.

Passengers of US carriers and US-bound flights are advised to check in two to three hours before their flight.

Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), said medical teams were now deployed at the final security check of US-bound flights and US carriers to inspect the liquid medicines that passengers needed to hand carry.

Passengers would also be asked to taste baby's milk that they needed to bring inside the aircraft cabin, Cusi said. *With reports from Nikko Dizon, Leila B. Salaverria, Luige A. del Puerto and Kate Pedroso, PDI Research*

Foiled plan may have been al-Qaida's 'Big One'

From page A1

"It is a classic al-Qaida tactic. It is a hallmark of al-Qaida to carry out coordinated, simultaneous attacks, and the aviation domain is certainly known to al-Qaida," he said.

International scope

FBI Director Robert Mueller echoed those views, saying: "This had the earmarks of an al-Qaida plot." US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff added that the plan was "sophisticated, it had a lot of members and it was international in scope."

There have been dozens of thwarted plots around the world since 2001, and several that were murderously successful. Suicide bombers killed 52 people in London on July 7, 2005, 58 in two attacks in Istanbul, Turkey in 2003, and 202 in Bali in 2002. Islamic radicals killed 191 people in Madrid on March 11, 2004, then blew themselves up days later when police were closing in.

While al-Qaida's call for global jihad clearly acted as inspiration, there has been no direct evidence that Bin Laden or his No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, had advance knowledge of those attacks, that they helped plan them, or that they provided financial or logistical help to those who carried them out.

The group's failure to match the destruction it inflicted on Sept. 11 has led to speculation that a global dragnet that has forced Bin Laden into hiding and ensnared many of his most trusted deputies may have degraded al-Qaida's abilities.

Analysts said Thursday that that is a theory to be believed only at the world's peril.

Homegrown terrorists

The airline plan had the potential to dwarf the attacks of recent years—killing hundreds, perhaps thousands.

It also appears to have involved far more extensive planning and expertise.

Counterterrorism agents have been tracking the alleged plotters for months, and made arrests in London and its suburbs, as well as Birmingham. A British police official said the suspects appeared to be "homegrown," though it was not immediately clear if they were all British citizens.

Magnus Ranstorp, a terrorism expert at Sweden's Center for Asymmetric Threat Studies who has done extensive research into al-Qaida's efforts to recruit in Europe, said the foiled plot in Britain "could very well have been an attempt at 'the Big One.'"

He warned naysayers against doubting the gravity of the threat.

"This was really serious. Police have no reason to play politics. I think one should take what they say very seriously," he said.

Andrea Nativi, a researcher at the Rome-based Military Center for Strategic Studies, said the London plot resembled that of Sept. 11, 2001 in its ambition, and was an entirely different animal from other terror schemes of recent years.

"By comparison, the London subway attacks look like child's play," he said.

Rodolfo Mendoza, a police intelligence official in the Philippines, said the "modus operandi" is the same as al-Qaida has used in the past—and he should know.

'Obsessed'

Mendoza was among the law enforcement officers involved in thwarting a plot by al-Qaida terror mastermind Ramzi Yousef—this one way back in 1995—to use liquid explosives to blow up a dozen airliners as they flew across the Pacific Ocean to US destinations like Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu and New York.

Like al-Qaida's decade-long effort to bring down the World Trade Center in New York, first in 1993 and then, disastrously, in 2001, the latest plot to blow up commercial airliners reveals the group's unwavering resolve, Mendoza said.

"These people are obsessed," he said. "They will try and try and try again to accomplish their mission.

Bob Ayers, from the London-based foreign affairs think tank Chatham House, agreed it had the modus operandi of earlier al-Qaida attacks, particularly for choosing "soft," symbolic targets.

"If it walks like a duck, talks like a duck and looks like a duck, then the chances are it is a duck," the terrorism and security specialist told AFP when asked about potential links to al-Qaida.

"Multiple targets, excellent planning and coordination, lots of preparation, it's been well-funded ... if that's not al-Qaida then God save us if there's another one out there."

Operation 'Bojinka'

Paul Wilkinson, from the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland, said it was "a very ambitious plot indeed."

"It is the kind of spectacular, potentially lethal attack which the al-Qaida network has been particularly interested in carrying out," he added.

"I would be very surprised if it was found that they were not involved as a movement.

"It is possible, I suppose, that some other movement could have copied the kind of techniques that had been used by the al-Qaida network, but I think that's unlikely."

British Home Secretary John Reid was tight-lipped when asked if the alleged conspiracy could have been inspired by a foiled 1995 plot.

But US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said it had echoes of that plot, called "Operation Bojinka," planned by Yousef and his uncle Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Yousef was jailed for 240 years in November 1997 for his part in the World Trade Center bombings in New York four years earlier in which six people died and more than 1,000 were injured.

He was also convicted of planting a "micro-bomb," smuggled onto Philippine Airlines flight 434 and assembled in a toilet, that killed a Japanese businessman.

Trial run

That attack, in December 1994, was supposedly a trial run for the larger "Bojinka" operation.

Mohammed, the self-proclaimed head of al-Qaida's military committee, was arrested in Pakistan in 2003 and is said to have been a mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Of the comparisons with "Bojinka," Reid would only say that "we are aware of the history books of things that have been tried in the past."

Ayers said Yousef's plot, foiled after plans were discovered in his Manila apartment bolt-hole, could have provided the idea but that equally planes were used to devastating effect in the September 2001 attacks.

Wilkinson said Yousef—who proclaimed he was proud to be a "terrorist" at his trial—was known to have developed techniques for liquid-based devices that could be smuggled on board without detection and assembled quickly.

The Philippine Airlines bomb used a conventional digital watch as a timer, stabilizers that looked like cotton wool balls and nine-volt batteries as a power supply.

The nitroglycerin-based explosive was taken on board in a contact lens plastic bottle.

Nevertheless John Potter, a security psychologist who helps train hostage negotiators, saw another aim in the alleged plot, which came at the height of the British summer holiday getaway.

"Disruption is key. They will see the disruption as a victory," said Potter, a former senior lecturer in military technology and psychology at Britain's elite Sandhurst military training college. *AP, AFP*

Going to US? . . .

From page A1

Airlines. Philippine Airlines (PAL) has direct flights to the US.

Ed Monreal, vice chair of the Airline Operators Council (AOC), said that regional flights were not included in the liquid and gel ban.

"This advisory is only for direct flights to the US. If you are a passenger bound for the US but you have a stopover or a connecting flight at another airport, these banned items don't have to be confiscated here at Naia," Monreal said.

Operations normal

Cusi said despite the tightening of security, no flights had been delayed and airport operations remain normal.

Cusi explained that under heightened alert, there is higher police visibility and bomb sniffing dogs are deployed around Naia terminals.

Other Asia-Pacific airports and airlines bolstered security on Friday.

Restrictions applied mostly to flights going to the US, in line with instructions from Washington. Carriers and airports in Australia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines were among those imposing new rules. Pakistan barred carry-on bags from all flights.

"The potential use of liquid explosives brings a whole new menacing dimension to the terrorist threat," Prime Minister John Howard said in a radio interview.

The Kuala Lumpur-based Association of Asia Pacific Airlines which groups 17 major carriers, said its members were fully cooperating with new security measures.

Bangkok's international airport deployed 25 bomb-sniffing dogs and extra security guards with handheld scanners while urging passengers to minimize carry-on items. *With a report from AP*

IN THE KNOW

Main ingredients in terrorists' explosive of choice

ACETONE and hydrogen peroxide are the main ingredients of triacetone triperoxide or TATP, the explosive of choice of terrorists and suicide bombers.

TATP was discovered in 1895 by German scientist Richard Wolffenstein. It is made from acetone, the main ingredient for nail polish removers, and hydrogen peroxide, which is used as a disinfectant when diluted. When mixed, these two chemicals react and crystallize into white powder. But even if left in its liquid form, the mixture may easily be detonated by an electrical spark.

A bomb made of TATP has an explosive force of 1.5 tons per square inch, which translates to 50 percent to 80 percent of the same amount of trinitrotoluene or TNT. When detonated on a plane 25,000 feet in the middle of Atlantic, there is hardly a chance of survival for passengers

TATP is commonly used by suicide bombers and terrorists because its base ingredients are all home products that are easy to buy and prepare. Moreover, TATP's finished form, which may be kept in various containers, is hardly detected by security dogs and bomb detection systems.

Another explosive of choice of bombers is nitroglycerin or glyceryl trinitrate, a colorless, oily liquid derived from a mixture of glycerol and concentrated nitric and sulfuric acids. It can produce an explosion with vigorous shaking.

It was first prepared by Italian chemist Ascanio Sobrero in 1846 and was developed by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel as a main ingredient for making dynamites in the 1860's. Now, it is also used in making propellants for rockets and missiles.

Other liquid explosives include hexamethylene triperoxide diamine peroxide or HMTP, whose main ingredient may be found in hair bleach and disinfectants, and nitromethane, which looks like water but may be as explosive as TNT when combined with other compounds.

Voltage from batteries with detonators can set off liquid explosives. Other liquid explosives may also be set off using another chemical, such as hydrochloric acid, which may be kept in a small bottle.

Terrorists have tried to hide liquid explosives on aircraft several times.

In December 2001, Richard Reid, a British-born Muslim, tried to blow up a US-bound plane from Paris with TATP stuffed in his shoes but he was thwarted by passengers.

In 1995, a plot to bomb 12 American planes over the Pacific was foiled when the Islamic fundamentalists led by Ramzi Ahmed Yousef accidentally set fire to their laboratory in Manila. Found in the apartment were bottles of nitroglycerin, among other things.

In December 1994, Ramzi Ahmed Yousef detonated an explosive on a Philippine Airlines plane headed for Japan, killing a Japanese and injuring 10 others. The explosive was found to be liquid nitroglycerin in a bottle of contact lens fluid.

Of the hundreds of types of explosives, most are solid and only about a dozen are liquid.

"All of them are highly energetic," said Neal Langerman, president of the Advanced Chemical Safety, a consulting company in San Diego of the the various chemical combinations. "It doesn't take much to punch a hole in the side of a plane, and if you punch a hole in the side of an airliner, the plane comes down." *Mel Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research Sources: Inquirer Archives, Encyclopedia Britannica, Reuters, The Portal, New York Times*

No device yet to detect liquid explosive

From page A1

But no such devices are ready to be rolled out.

"This is not a case of them being caught like a deer in the headlights and saying, 'Oh my god we never expected this,'" Carafano said. "In fact they expected this threat."

Cathleen A. Berrick, director of the Government Accountability Office's homeland security and justice division, told a Senate committee in February 2005 that the Transportation Security Administration, part of the federal Department of Homeland Security, redirected more than half of the $110 million it had for research and development in 2003 to pay for personnel costs of screeners, delaying research in areas including detecting liquid explosives. It has continued to redirect some research and development money, she said Thursday.

"They'd identified it as a vulnerability, they knew it was there, and they'd taken some steps to address it," Berrick said.

Only step taken

The overnight ban on carrying liquids aboard flights that was imposed Thursday was about the only step immediately available. The ban was only in use for flights originating in the United States or Britain; passengers can still carry liquids on American planes flying here from other countries.

The department has been moving ahead with the installation of one proven technology, so-called puffer machines, which blow a small amount of air on passengers to look for traces of explosives. To date, the machines have been installed at about 30 airports around the United States, including in New York and Washington.

As easy as mixing a drink

But these devices may not sound an alarm if a terrorist has been extremely careful in preparing the liquid explosive, meaning no traces are left on the container or the person or bag carrying it.

And once on board, mixing the explosives would be "as easy as mixing a gin and tonic, if you have the right stuff," said Paul Worsey, an explosives expert and professor of engineering at the University of Missouri at Rolla.

Most liquid explosives would require a detonator, but a music player or other hand-held passenger gadget has sufficient electrical energy to do that, experts say. *New York Times*

After 100 days, 'Tagaytay 5' find life in jail suffocating

By TJ Burgonio

THE ORDEAL OF THREE FARMERS AND TWO others charged and detained at a police camp in Laguna in connection with an alleged plot to sabotage the May 1 Labor Day rally are far from over.

Peasant leaders Axel Alejandro Pinpin, Aristides Sarmiento, Riel Custodio, and cockfighting aficionados Enrico Ybañez and Michael Masayes now find life inside a cramped cell, with little ventilation, at Camp Vicente Lim, a sprawling camp in Calamba, suffocating.

The detainees, collectively known as 'Tagaytay 5," who marked their 100th day of detention last Sunday, are never taken out of their cell at the camp's base police headquarters for sunning or outdoor exercises.

Worse, they don't get to talk to visiting kin for long because of strict detention rules: visitors are allowed only from 12 noon to 3 p.m. from Wednesday to Friday.

"Our memories of the torture had subsided. But these were being replaced by the nightmare that we are detained under these circumstances, and we're not even convicted at that," Pinpin, 34, a poet and researcher for the farmers' group Kamagsasaka Ka, rued in an interview with reporters.

Some reporters accompanied Sen. Jamby Madrigal when she made a surprise visit on the detainees, upon their invitation, and saw for herself the "inhuman, inhumane conditions" in their detention cell.

Madrigal said she would file a resolution asking the Senate committee on justice and human rights to inquire into the circumstances of their arrest and detention.

When he was detained during martial law, the bespectacled Sarmiento, a consultant for people's organizations, including Kamagsasaka Ka, said he and his visitors were allowed to talk in private in a visitors' lounge.

"This is worse than martial law regime," he told reporters in the presence of Madrigal, speaking through the steel bars.

Because of the strict detention rules, Ybañez never got to see his wife alive before she died on July 14 of leukemia.

But the five's biggest fear was that the government was conspiring with the courts in Tagaytay City "to railroad" the rebellion case against them.

Sarmiento fretted that they were set to be arraigned on Monday at the Tagaytay City trial court although they had not been furnished the results of the preliminary investigation at the prosecutor's office.

The five were driving home when armed men in a van cut their path in Barangay Sungay, Tagaytay City on the night of April 28, ordered them out, cuffed them behind their backs before dragging them into the van, and taking them to different safe-houses.

For the next four days, they were interrogated and subjected to physical and psychological torture.

It wasn't until May 1 when they were presented before the press at the national police headquarters in Camp Crame as suspects in an alleged Leftist-rightist conspiracy to sabotage the Labor Day rally. And it was only on May 2 that they were brought for inquest at the prosecutors' office.

Text spams getting your goat? Hit back, read these NTC rules

By Riza T. Olchondra
Business

IN LINE WITH ITS COMMITMENT TO CRACK down on text spam or unwanted text messages, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has laid down the rules on the filing and handling of consumer complaints against text spammers.

Under the guidelines, complainants must fill up a complaint form either at the NTC headquarters or its regional offices.

The complainant must present the form, together with a valid ID with picture and a cellphone unit showing the spam message, to a text spam committee member for verification.

The NTC core team is headed by Danilo O. Cuenca with Nilo L. Lozada, Dante M. Vengua as assistant heads. The other members are Susanna O. Panes, Lani Briones, Flora Aliño, Flora Anacay, Jesusa B. Lee and Marissa G. Esguerra.

The concerned telco or content provider must submit within five days of receiving an NTC notice its text data record proving that the complainant had agreed to receive the messages under question. Failure to do so will lead to penalties.

The same NTC guidelines place the burden of proof on the sender, which means that it is up to the telco and content provider to prove that the message is not spam, primarily by submitting the text data record.

The NTC considers telcos and content providers to have sent spam if, among other violations, the message was sent to a party that did not specifically subscribe to the topic contained; the message was sent under a promotion or activity that was not authorized by the NTC and the Department of Trade and Industry; the message was re-sent to a party that did not reply to an original sending; the sender fails to provide ways for customers to easily subscribe or unsubscribe to messages; the sender does not identify itself in the messages; and if the sender fails to keep text data records for six months from the start of its texting activity.

Penalities include cancellation or suspension of the telcos' or content providers' authority to engage in broadcast messaging services or even the cancellation or suspension of their certificate of registration.

The anti-spam team may also recommend a financial penalty of P200 for every spam text message sent to an individual subscriber.

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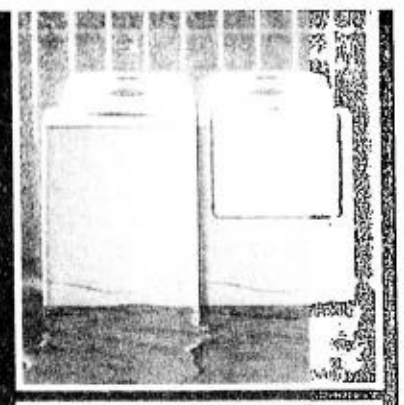

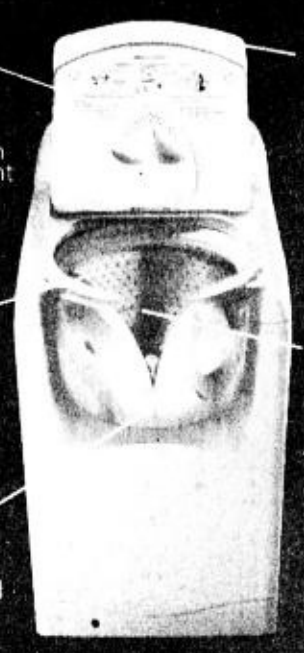

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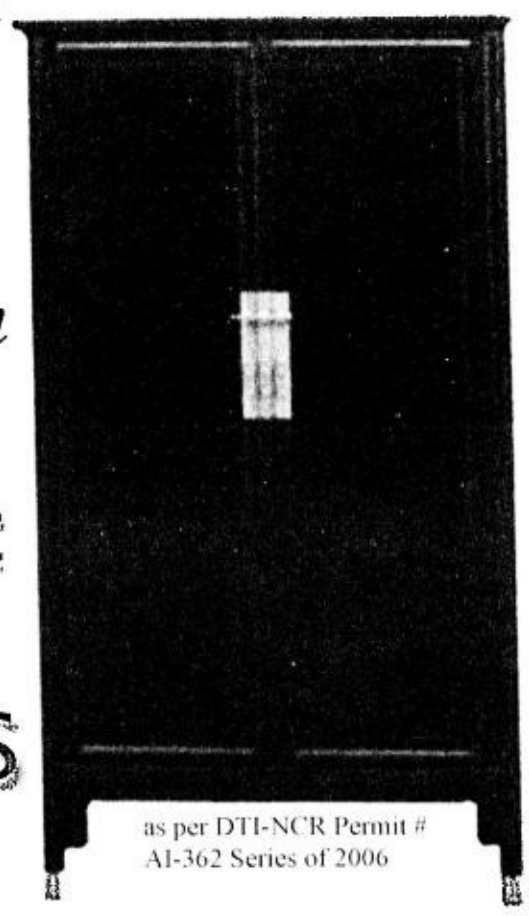

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messages

Congratulations to the Philippine National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the holding of the 1st Southeast Asia Forum on International Humanitarian Law on August 10-12, 2006.

Southeast Asia has been a grisly theatre of armed conflicts for decades now, ranging form ethnic tensions, separatist movements, religious struggles, and other skirmishes where civilian casualties end up as collateral damage. Moreover, terrorism has gone global and has permeated from the urban centers of the western hemisphere to the rustic corners of Asia.

This forum on International Humanitarian Law will provide a rare opportunity for our esteemed guests and us to analyze the experiences of those caught in armed conflicts which are peculiar to Southeast Asian people. I hope the discussion on these matters may be valuable in further improving the protection of the victims of hostilities especially the civilian populace in Lebanon, which includes our overseas contract workers.

I wish all the organizers and participants a successful outcome in this symposium and may you discover the ways and means to make our world peaceful and prosperous.

MABUHAY!

NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines

Today as the Filipino nation celebrates International Humanitarian Law Day, we affirm our commitment to the principles that uphold the life and dignity of the individual in times of war and armed conflict.

More than ever we find ourselves in the midst of hostilities as our countrymen in Mindanao, Lebanon and other parts of the world get caught in the middle of escalating violence. It is an opportune time therefore to emphasize the importance of respect for humanitarian laws.

We urge the government and those in the private sector to do their part in ensuring that the message of the Geneva Conventions - that those who do not take part or no longer involved in combat, which include the wounded, sick, prisoners of war and civilians, are protected - is strictly observed. Even wars have limits: we cannot condone acts that undermine the inalienable rights to life and liberty.

Indeed we at the PNRC are taking the lead in spreading knowledge on International Humanitarian Law and in extending assistance to victims of armed conflict. Through our efforts we hope to gain the support and cooperation of the whole nation in ensuring humanity amidst war and armed conflict.

We hope that this celebration will raise public awareness and respect for human rights.

RICHARD GORDON
Chair, Philippine National Red Cross

We join the whole country in celebrating International Humanitarian Law Day - a day that serves as a reminder that humanity can and should exist even in times of war and armed conflict.

International Humanitarian Law is the law of war. They refer to rules that govern the conduct of parties to a conflict in order to limit the suffering particularly of non-combatants and civilians. People around the world should be aware of these rules and be proactive in reporting acts that violate them.

As a signatory to the Geneva Conventions, the Philippines has been a leading advocate of upholding the law in areas of armed conflict. Our efforts range from vigilant information dissemination that aims to raise the people's awareness, to extending protection to victims of armed conflict.

As we witness escalating violence around the world, we should be more vigilant than ever in upholding the life and dignity of the innocent people caught in the middle of hostilities.

Mabuhay!

JUSTICE LEONOR INES-LUCIANO
Chair, National IHL Commitee

I would like to extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the Philippine National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross for hosting the First Southeast Asian Forum on International Humanitarian Law on 10 -12 August 2006,

The holding of the conference is timely in view of the various conflicts affecting millions of innocent people throughout the world today. The general consensus however is that these atrocities result not from the inadequacy of international humanitarian law but from either the lack of awareness of or defiance of its principles.

I am confident that this Forum will help address this urgent concern and ultimately contribute to our shared aspirations for peace and harmony,

The Red Cross societies in the region will certainly benefit from this meaningful undertaking. The Forum will provide a valuable opportunity for fostering a better understanding of cross-cultural dynamics and exchanges of experiences and information on the mutual pursuit of promoting a greater consciousness of international humanitarian law.

I wish to laud the organizers of this Forum for actively promoting a deeper awareness of and appreciation for the principles of international humanitarian law. This is indeed a commendable achievement

Again, I wish you success in this noteworthy initiative as well as in your future endeavors.

Mabuhay!

ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

A call for all-out respect for international humanitarian law

Statement of the Philippine National Red Cross IHL National Committee

IN A TIME OF ALL-OUT WAR, SUCH AS that recently ordered by the President and Commander-in-Chief Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) to crush the New People's Army (NPA) in two years, the best call is still for all-out peace, at least a return to the mode of peace negotiations. Even the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), as if to show that it can be done because of its steadily progressing peace talks and ceasefire with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), has made such a call.

But there is also the reality like now where one or both sides of a conflict, for reasons or dynamics of their own, would rather wage war than talk peace. The orders, whether for all-out war or intensified tactical offensives, have been given, and it seems that the unleashed dogs of war can no longer be restrained or pulled back for the foreseeable near future. The talk is already about "unavoidable collateral damage" to civilians who will surely be caught in the crossfire.

In this worst-case scenario, there should at least be all-out respect for human rights (HR) and international humanitarian law (IHL), i.e. the law on armed conflict (LOAC) which protects civilians and which limits the means and methods of warfare. Even war has limits - not only for the sake of non-combatants but also for the sake of combatants. It has been said that IHL helps pave the road to peace (Per Humanitatem Ad Pacem) by promoting humanity in time of war (Inter Armas Caritas). By respecting the basic rights and dignity of all, the fighting forces help build mutual trust that enhances the chances for a peaceful settlement.

This should not be a problem for both sides which are bound by the relevant generally-accepted principles and rules of customary international law, and which furthermore have made their respective unilateral and bilateral commitments to respect HR and IHL. They, in fact, already have an existing 1998 Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL). Beyond its specific provisions are its general provisions of commitment to the full scope and the universally applicable principles and standards of HR and IHL, including those in certain international treaties, esp. where the Philippines is a signatory. But of course such commitments are easier said than done.

The PNRC IHL National Committee, as a national focal point for concerted inter-agency (GO-NGO) advancement of IHL, wishes to do its part in the current all-out war situation, by challenging both sides, particularly the AFP-PNP and the NPA, to implement their commitments to respect IHL, for the sake of the people and communities in the countryside. Do your respective internal security or revolutionary jobs, missions or tasks, if you have to, but respect IHL in doing it. In turn, you will gain the high moral ground and respect of the people.

It has also been said that a murdering and plundering army is not worth much in military terms. Respect for IHL is an element of military discipline which is essential for any army. This is not a burdensome duty but something clearly in the interest of military commanders. One particular concern, much like the distinction between combatants and civilians, is the distinction between military and political targets. There should be an operational difference between the two, even if they are somehow connected or mutually reinforcing. Military targets are targeted militarily; civilian/political targets should not. Otherwise, we shall be condemned to repeat the mistakes of past repressive regimes which had the effect of boosting and prolonging rather than ending the insurgency. In fact, this lesson of history militates against a mainly military solution.

The PNRC IHL National Committee, for its part, likewise reaffirms the Declaration of Commitment at the 1st IHL National Consultative Conference of 22-23 November 2005 to meet the challenges of the situation of armed conflict in the country by advancing the work of IHL in the three key areas of (1) Protection of Victims of Armed Conflict, (2) IHL Dissemination and Education, and (3) IHL Legislation and Treaty Ratification. In the face of all-out war now, we call for all-out respect for IHL by all concerned.

5 July 2006, at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
For the PNRC IHL National Committee:
Justice LEONOR INES LUCIANO
Chairperson

Fast Facts about IHL

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL), also known as the law of armed conflict or the law of war, is the body of rules, which, in wartime, protects persons who are not, or no longer participating in the hostilities. It is mainly composed of four Geneva Conventions, The Hague Conventions and other hostilities.

IHL only applies during armed conflicts. It does not cover isolated acts of armed violence and internal disturbances. These are dealt with by existing domestic or human rights laws. The four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1997 are the main treaties of IHL. These conventions protect the wounded and sick soldiers in the field; the wounded, sick and shipwrecked soldiers; prisoners of war; and civilians.

Basic principles of IHL
Protection must always be given to:

1. Noncombatants
· Wounded and sick combatants
· Shipwrecked combatants at sea
· Prisoners of war
· Civilians-journalist, religious personnel, women and children, and elderly
· Medical and relief workers
· Red Cross workers

2. Objects and places
· Medical zones/ property
· Objects for survival: agriculture and livestock, water and food supplies
· Cultural and religious places
· Installation with dangerous forces-dams and chemical plants, nuclear/ electrical generation stations
· Demilitarized/ peace zones

3. Protective emblems
· Red Cross, white flag of truce

Limitations in the conduct of warfare:

1. Use of Banned or restricted weapons
· Booby traps
· Incendiary landmines
· Chemical weapons
· Laser weapons causing blindness
· Bacteriological/ biological weapons
· Weapons with no detectable fragments

2. Target only military objectives:
· Armed forces/ opposition
· Military establishments/ positions
· Objects that by nature/ location/ purpose or use contribute to military action and whose destruction offers a military advantage

3. Prohibition on indiscriminate fighting/ military tactics that cause:
· Excessive or unnecessary loss of human lives
· Severe or long-term damage to the environment

Distinction in times of armed conflicts:

1. Combatants and non combatants
· Regular armed forces
· Armed opposition
· Civilians or persons who are no longer taking part in the armed conflict

2. Military and non military targets
· Armed forces/ opposition
· Military positions and establishments
· Object that by nature/ location/ purpose are for military action
· Civilian population
· Protected places and objects
· Medical Personnel
· Red Cross workers

COMITE INTERNATIONAL GENEVE

ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross

ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES: 2005-2006

- ICRC increased its presence in all of the conflict-prone areas of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao in order to improve its humanitarian response to the needs of victims and further develop its dialogue with parties to the conflict.
- Between January and May of this year, 24,546 internally displaced Filipinos were assisted with food and essential household items. Authorities were also supported in order to provide medical assistance to victims of clashes, indiscriminate attacks and explosive devices, including severe burn victims. Conditions in 25 evacuation centres were assessed and water and sanitation improvements commenced in 5 locations.
- Numerous missions to the island of Sulu. In addition to providing, together with the PNRC, assistance, the ICRC reminded the parties to the conflict of their obligations to respect IHL.
- During 2005, ICRC visited some 69,000 detained persons, following up with 593 individually and, together with the PNRC, enabling 210 to receive visits from family members. ICRC also carried out urgent small-scale improvements to prison infrastructure and provided assistance to detainees facing medical emergencies.
- ICRC continued to support the integration of IHL into AFP military training and raised awareness among other fighters through the organization of basic information sessions.
- ICRC strengthened its cooperation with the PNRC, reinforcing the National Society's capacity to respond to emergency situations generated by armed conflict.

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Red Cross/Red Crescent in situations of conflict.

Since 1982, the ICRC has maintained a delegation in the Philippines. Working through the national volunteer network of 93 PNRC chapters, the ICRC and PNRC are engaged in neutral and humanitarian action to assist people evacuated from their homes and promote international humanitarian law (IHL) across all sectors of society.

ICRC also acts as a neutral intermediary between opposing forces in matters of humanitarian concern and visits security detainees. It endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Why many Filipinos leave: More jobless, less jobs here

By Norman Bordadora

THERE ARE MORE OVERSEAS Filipino workers being sent abroad than there are jobs being created by the Philippine economy, according to figures culled by the government.

Local think tank Ibon Foundation said this was the reason why Filipino migrant workers preferred to stay in Lebanon despite the threat of war, evacuating only when Israeli bombs rained on civilian targets in Beirut.

Quoting figures from the National Statistics Office's labor force survey, Ibon research head Sonny Africa said that from April 2001 to April 2006, the economy generated an average of 787,000 jobs annually.

"[This] is not even enough to absorb the 987,000 new entrants to the job market, much less make a dent on the growing number of unemployed Filipinos, currently pegged at over 4.4 million workers," Africa said.

In contrast, statistics from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that from 2001 to 2005, more than 900,000 migrant workers left the country yearly for employment abroad.

"Figures on job creation and OFW deployment show that the Arroyo government has consistently fallen short of its already modest target of creating one million to 1.2 million jobs a year," Africa said.

Ibon made the statement in the wake of a Pulse Asia survey that showed three out of 10 Filipinos want to go abroad for employment opportunities.

"The fact that many overseas Filipino workers would prefer to risk their lives in war-torn Lebanon than return home highlights how the Arroyo administration has failed to create sufficient jobs to enable them to come home permanently and make a decent living," Africa said.

Labor secretary OKs minimum wage hike rules

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY ARTURO BRION HAS APproved the implementing rules for the July 11 wage order increasing the basic pay of minimum wage earners in Metro Manila by P25, paving the way for workers to file complaints and for some firms to apply for exemption.

The National Capital Region wage board increased the minimum wage rate of workers in the non-agricultural sector from P325 to P350. The amount includes the P25-increase which was added to the P275 basic wage of daily wage workers plus the P50 existing emergency cost of living allowance.

The applicable minimum wage rate for agriculture workers, private hospitals with bed capacity of 100 or less, retail and service establishments with less than 15 workers and small manufacturing industries with less than 10 workers in the region is P268 in the basic pay plus the P50-ECOLA.

Under the law, employers who fail to give their workers the new minimum wages face fines of up to P100,000 and a jail sentence.

A company could file with the appropriate Regional Board an application for exemption from the salary hike within 75 days after the publication of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the wage order.

Brion earlier approved the IRRs for the Eastern Visayas and Davao regions.

IRRs from other regions are expected to be published next week. The new wage orders and IRRs may also be downloaded at www.nwpc.dole.gov.ph.

Señeres denies linking 3 businessmen to coup plot

THE SPECULATIONS THAT SOME prominent businessmen were involved in the latest coup attempt against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo have been settled with finality.

In an affidavit, former Ambassador Roy Señeres said that "contrary to what was reported in the media, I never said that Felipe Cruz, Jr., Iñigo Zobel and Tony Boy Cojuangco were financiers of a coup plot."

"There was no occasion that I discussed with Felipe Cruz, Jr., Iñigo Zobel and Tony Boy Cojuangco about financing such destabilization plot or coup d' etat," he added.

The story attributed to Señeres created quite a stir that compelled the Justice Department, Philippine National Police, CIDG and the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the matter.

The persons mentioned in the story promptly sent in their denials in all media outlets that carried the story.

Subsequent investigations by the Department of Justice, NBI and other police agencies could not find any incriminating information against the three businessmen.

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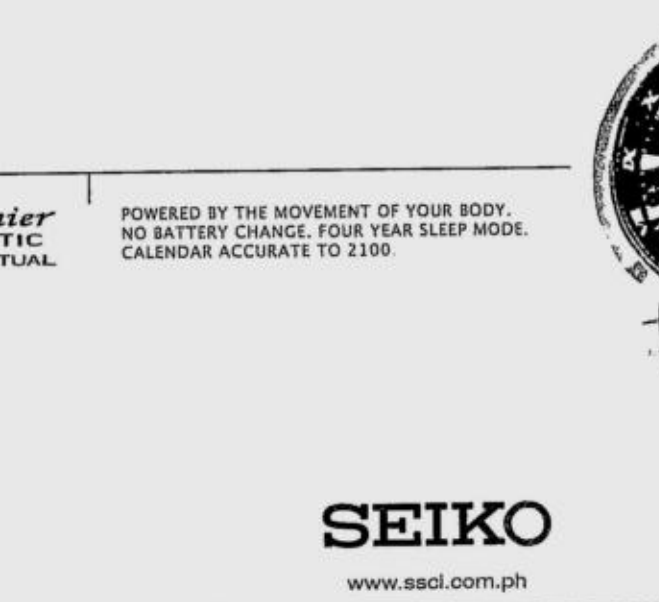
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Safer in Beirut

EVEN AS ISRAEL PREPARES FOR A NEW GROUND offensive, which would multiply the risks for everyone in Lebanon, the number of Filipino workers seeking repatriation seems to have fallen sharply. The government says it has hired ships and planes to take Filipinos out of harm's way, but there aren't enough evacuees to fill them to capacity.

EDITORIAL

That's not because the government has succeeded in bringing back home most of the Filipinos working in the war-torn country. By official count, less than 3,000 OFWs have been flown back from Lebanon to the Philippines. There are 1,494 others waiting in evacuation centers in both Lebanon and neighboring Syria, and they are expected to take their flights to Manila over the weekend. After that, there will still be about 30,000 Filipinos left behind. But they are not budging. Notwithstanding the call of President Macapagal-Arroyo for them to hurry home. Notwithstanding the pleas of the Philippine Embassy for them to go away at the earliest opportunity. Not even in the face of Israel's new threat to expand its offensive which will heighten the risk of their being caught in a crossfire.

It seems that short of being bodily carried to the boats and planes, the remaining OFWs are not leaving Lebanon. And their stubborn refusal to leave is driving some officials close to frustration. "I do not know what we will do," Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. wailed. "We can't go around Lebanon carrying handcuffs and cuffing them."

Many holdovers apparently believe that fears for their safety are exaggerated. Old hands are saying the Israeli bombings and the new war are nothing compared to what happened more than a decade ago when Lebanon was still in the grip of a civil war. "My goodness," Conejos said, "this means they feel it is safer in Beirut because they calculate that this war might not widen."

It's hard to say if those OFWs truly believe they are safer in Beirut in time of war although Manila in time of peace can be a very dangerous place. But the most endangered species in the Philippines today are not domestics and other unskilled workers, like many of those who are left in Lebanon, but journalists and leftist activists. Almost everyone who refuses to flee from the war has the same reason: What will we do when we get home? By their decision to stay put, those OFWs are saying they would rather risk death by random fire or bombing in Lebanon than face certain death from hunger in the Philippines. That is why they left their homes in the first place: to flee the specter of poverty and hunger haunting them and their families. To come home is for them only to invite the return of those twin plagues.

More than the noisy wrangling over funds among Filipino officials, more than the inadequacy of their preparations and resources, this is our country's shame and tragedy: that so many Filipinos feel more secure— physically and especially financially—in a foreign country that is in a state of war. This holds true not only in Lebanon, but in Iraq and Afghanistan. And this is one dark reality that cannot be buried under all those rosy statistics about economic growth, higher imports, lower foreign exchange rates, smaller deficits, etc.

For every Filipino who comes home, hundreds are waiting for the chance to work abroad. While 8 million Filipinos are already living or working abroad, three out of every 10 who are still here want to leave, according to the latest survey done by Pulse Asia. Most of those who manage to leave won't be coming back if they can help it. They are among the growing number of Filipinos who see no hope that things here will turn for the better. They have simply given up on this country.

Cuba's edge

FEW DOUBT THAT THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM IN CUBA WILL die with Señor Fidel Castro. For now the economy is in stasis. But entrepreneurs are well aware of the pent-up demand for change, for imports, luxuries and links to the outside world, and they are already preparing to seize the moment when the US embargo is lifted.

Some fear that Cuba could quickly return to 1959—when gambling interests and corrupt businessmen dominated weak governments—with a new mafia taking advantage of communism's death. But that is to ignore everything that has happened since the fall of Batista. Cuba is more robust now. For all the repression, religious persecution and assault on human rights, the Cuban people have three advantages on which to build a future: an education system that has given them literacy and qualifications; a credible national health system; and cultural pride, seen in the flowering of the arts and music. *The Times (London)*

FOREIGN COMMENT

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'Don we now our gay apparel'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

HOMOSEXUALS BEFORE WERE MOCKED and derided, but now they are regarded with new-found respect and, in many cases, even treated as celebrities. Only recently, the more impressionable among our people wildly welcomed a group of entertainers whose main proud advertisement was that they were "queer." It seems that the present society has developed a new sense of values that have rejected our religious people's traditional ideas of propriety and morality on the pretext of being "modern" and "broad-minded."

The observations I will here make against homosexuals in general do not include the members of their group who have conducted themselves decorously, with proper regard not only for their own persons but also for the gay population in general. A number of our local couturiers, to take but one example, are less than manly but they have behaved in a reserved and discreet manner unlike the vulgar members of the gay community who have degraded and scandalized it. I offer abject apologies to those blameless people I may unintentionally include in my not inclusive criticisms. They have my admiration and respect.

The change in the popular attitude toward homosexuals is not particular to the Philippines. It has become an international trend even in the so-called sophisticated regions with more liberal concepts than in our comparatively conservative society. Gay marriages have been legally recognized in a number of European countries and in some parts of the United States. Queer people—that's the sarcastic term for them—have come out of the closet where before they carefully concealed their condition. The permissive belief now is that homosexuals belong to a separate third sex with equal rights as male and female persons instead of just an illicit in-between gender that is neither here nor there.

When I was studying in the Legarda Elementary School in Manila during the last '30s, the big student population had only one, just one, homosexual. His name was Jose but we all called him Josefa. He was a quiet and friendly boy whom everybody liked to josh but not offensively. In the whole district of Sampaloc where I lived, there was only one homosexual who roamed the streets peddling *kalamay* and *puto* and other treats for *merienda*. He provided diversion to his genial customers and did not mind their familiar amiable teasing. I think he actually enjoyed being a *binabae*.

The change came, I think, when an association of homos dirtied the beautiful tradition of the Santa Cruz de Mayo by parading their kind as the *sagalas* instead of the comely young maidens who should have been chosen to grace the procession. Instead of being outraged by the blasphemy, the watchers were amused and, I suppose, indirectly encouraged the fairies to project themselves. It must have been then that they realized that they were what they were, whether they liked it or not, and that the time for hiding their condition was over.

Now homosexuals are everywhere, coming at first in timorous and eventually alarming and audacious number. Beauty salons now are served mostly by gay attendants including effeminate bearded hairdressers to whom male barbers have lost many of their macho customers. Local shows have their share of *siyoke*, including actors like the one rejected by a beautiful wife in favor of a more masculine if less handsome partner. And, of course, there are lady-like directors who are probably the reason why every movie and TV drama must have the off-color *bading* or two to cheapen the proceedings.

And the schools are now fertile ground for the gay invasion. Walking along the University belt one day, I passed by a group of boys chattering among themselves, with one of them exclaiming seriously, "*Aalis na ako. Magpapasuso pa ako*!" (I'm leaving. I still have to breastfeed!) That pansy would have been mauled in the school where my five sons (all machos) studied during the '70s when all the students were certifiably masculine. Now many of its pupils are gay, and I don't mean happy. I suppose they have been influenced by such shows as "Brokeback Mountain," our own "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (both of which won awards), "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," and that talk program of Ellen Degeneres, an admitted lesbian.

Is our population getting to be predominantly pansy? Must we allow homosexuality to march unobstructed until we are converted into a nation of sexless persons without the virility of males and the grace of females but only an insipid mix of these diluted virtues? Let us be warned against the gay population, which is *per se* a compromise between the strong and the weak and therefore only somewhat and not the absolute of either of the two qualities. Be alert lest the Philippine flag be made of delicate lace and adorned with embroidered frills.

A curious choice for MSU president

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

LAST YEAR, A SCREENING AND SELECTION committee was formed for the Mindanao State University presidency, which was going to be vacant. The chair was Cristina Padolina, former UP Open University chancellor. The members were former Education Secretary Ric Gloria, De La Salle University King Institute director Pons Intal, the alumni regent of MSU and former Education Undersecretary Mona Valisno, representing the Office of the President. All big guns.

The search committee was tasked (as per a memo from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita) to prescribe the qualifications for the position, to publish the appropriate notice for applications and other requirements, to conduct the screening of qualified candidates and finally to submit to the Office of the President, one month before the expiration of the term of the incumbent MSU head, the list of qualified candidates, "duly ranked in order of priority."

Over a period of three months, the committee evaluated the qualifications of 21 nominees, whittling their number down to 10, and then after personal interviews, it finally came up with a short list of three candidates, ranked according to the total scores they received in the evaluations.

Although Padolina did not tell me, I learned that there was tremendous pressure from local politicos to include their nominee-relatives among the top 10, if not in the short list to be submitted to Malacañang. To the committee's credit, the pressure went unheeded. It was intent on choosing the best candidate, one who would reverse the deterioration in the university's academic standards, which was due in no small measure to the university's falling prey to political machinations.

No. 1 on the committee's list—and its unanimous choice—was Macapado A. Muslim, to whom they gave a score of 94.6 (out of a possible 100). No. 2 was Nasrudan Guro, with a score of 87; followed by Otingque Masnar who got 84.5.

Was their choice of "Mac" Muslim justified? As an academic and an administrator, he stands very tall indeed. He earned his MA and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii (as an East West Center scholar) with the highest possible grades (4.0, equivalent to straight A's), his Master's in Public Administration (management) from UP and his BS in Public Administration from MSU—all on scholarships. His research and publications (both here and abroad), particularly on the Mindanao conflict, are numerous and are used as references by other researchers. He has given lectures in universities in Tokyo, Washington, D.C., Honolulu and Kuala Lumpur on the subject, as well as on development administration and conflict resolution.

There can't be any doubt about his administrative and management skills. They are evident in what he has accomplished as chancellor of MSU General Santos (since 1995), not only in terms of infrastructure (campus buildings, roads) and increased income generation (from P800,000 to P15 million in 10 years), but also in improved academic standards. Data from the Commission on Higher Education show that the passing rate in licensure/professional exams (percentage of takers who passed) of Muslim's campus rose from 53 percent to 64 percent between the periods 1994-1998 and 1999-2003. How does this compare with other colleges and universities whose students took the same exams? It puts MSU General Santos in No. 6 position (UP's Diliman, Manila and Los Baños share the No. 1 position). His management skills have been in demand not only locally but abroad (including the International Islamic University Malaysia).

Not bad for a man whose parents did not even complete first grade, and whose schooling was so bad he had to take remedial courses in English and Math in MSU's "College Bound" program as a precondition to his entering the university (he quickly made up for it, and became a full academic scholar in his last two years). His performance as an administrator and as an academic has been so impressive that in an unprecedented move, the chancellors of the other MSU campuses (except the Marawi campus, whose chancellor is also the MSU president) unanimously endorsed his nomination for president of MSU. In fact, even in the previous (1998) search for MSU president, it is common knowledge that he also topped the rankings but was considered young enough so he could afford to wait one more term.

It has also been said that a Malacañang internal search committee and the Presidential Management Staff endorsed Muslim.

But Muslim did not get the job. Instead, it went to then outgoing PNP Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon, who was not even among the 21 nominees.

In the ensuing hue and cry in Mindanao, everyone was assured that the De Leon appointment was temporary (at most a year), and that he was placed there to remove the squatters, the warlords and the drug problem on the Marawi campus. This, despite the fact that the PNP headquarters is right beside the campus, and a Marine detachment is a stone's throw away. Also, warlords are not living on campus but in other parts of Lanao. At any rate, De Leon's appointment came one day after he retired from the PNP.

Today, the squatters are still there, and De Leon reportedly moves around with a 20-man PNP and Marine contingent as bodyguards. The questions: Will Mac Muslim get the job he so clearly deserves, so that he can transform MSU into a first class university? Or will political convenience be the order of the day, to the detriment of Mindanao and its people?

Terror has no boundaries

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE ATTENTION OF MILLIONS AROUND THE world was glued to television as news broke out that the London police had uncovered a terror plot to bomb US-bound airplanes in mid-flight. Truly, terrorism knows no boundaries and fighting it unites the world faster than any cause. Viewers commiserated with the thousands of passengers stranded in Heathrow Airport. A friend called to say, suppose you were trying to get out of London fast, how would you feel with all the flights virtually cancelled? Or if you were down to a few bucks and couldn't get to a decent hotel for shower, meals and some sleep?

* * *

The appointment of Ambassador Willy Gaa, a veteran and career diplomat, to replace Ambassador Albert del Rosario in Washington, D.C. was a fantastic blow for careerism in the Department of Foreign Affairs. Ambassadors Gaa and Raul Rabe, who preceded Del Rosario, seem to have been the exceptions in a long string of distinguished political appointees whose ranks included my late boss, former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez. Gaa's appointment reportedly surprised some people who have become accustomed to seeing high-profile political appointees in Washington, unarguably one of the most important diplomatic posts, if not the most.

Gaa's problem seems to be that he has been quite low-profile, but he's ripe for the top job. He had been chargé d'affaires out there and consul-general in various key US cities. He was also ambassador to China and Australia and was posted earlier in Libya; all these assignments have given him a rounded world view. I first met Gaa in Beijing in October 2004, when he gave a well-informed and authoritative briefing for our delegation. Gaa has a reputation for being hard-working and is totally approachable, with a big heart for people. Congratulations, Willy.

* * *

Wanting to escape the heat of politics last month, my family and I—upon invitation of our Tokyo-based daughter Christine and her Japanese husband, Keiichi—flew to Paris and ran smack into its searing upper 36-degree heat. One bright spot was that our new ambassador to Paris, Jose "Toto" Zaide, and his lady, the former Meng Tagamolila, invited us to home-cooked dinner at their apartment on the fashionable Avenue Foch, where they have a tasteful display of art and artifact collections from various postings around the world.

Ambassador Zaide recounted to us his meeting with Unesco Director General Koichiro Matsuura. (The RP ambassador to Paris is also the country's permanent representative to Unesco, which makes that posting doubly difficult.) Zaide said Matsuura was very pleased with the success of the 31st World Congress of the International Theater Institute held in RP last May. He noted the excellent arrangements for the nearly thousand delegates, including himself, and the fruitful interaction between world-renowned artists, international experts and Filipino government officials and townsfolk on the crucial role of theater and the arts to accomplish the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Matsuura was also all praises for Filipino hospitality, notably the dinner President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted for the entire ITI delegates in Malacañang. Zaide noted the UN official's openness toward projects being initiated by the RP Embassy, which he attributed to the success of the recent Congress.

* * *

I was quite happy to hear Zaide speak of Matsuura's sentiments, which vindicated the untiring efforts of NCCA executive director Cecile Alvarez to make that world event a huge success. Her critics have resorted to countless backbiting, even disparaging the event by harping only on the "disorganization" but ignoring how it helped establish RP's reputation as a mecca for the arts in Asia. The selfless soul that she is, Cecile, however, rose above all the intrigues and just kept working with her team against all odds. Matsuura's accolades about her "admirable work" should confound her critics.

* * *

I don't know how I could have made last Thursday's mistake of identifying PAL president as Jimmy "Santos" instead of Jimmy Bautista. The error is embarrassing as I know him and we were together during Pope John Paul II's funeral in April 2005. Perhaps, I was too preoccupied in identifying PAL Capt. Miguel Santos who married Rebecca Versoza, the lone stewardess in that historic flight across the Pacific. My apologies to Jimmy Bautista.

* * *

Many citizens are happy to contribute to the education of the less fortunate, knowing that only education and proper technical training can help break the cycle of poverty for poor families. Help for poor students is the backbone of the Erda Foundation, set up by 92-year-old Fr. Pierre Tritz. The foundation thrives entirely on donations. Every year, I make an appeal for support for the students of the Erda Technical-Vocational High School. I'm happy to note that there have been many donors whose help has seen many Erda students through a five-year academic course/vocational training, which enables them to immediately work after graduation. My family's five-year scholar, 18-year-old Erick Paulino, who lives with his grandmother (a laundrywoman), graduated last April and is doing well in automotive servicing, having trained at Diamond Motors in Pasig City. Erick plans to go to college as a working student.

This school year, Erda Tech has 546 students enrolled in the five levels. Their schooling will cost the foundation P13 million. As of this writing, 316 students are sponsored, but 230 others in various levels have no sponsors yet. For them the foundation needs P5.1 million more. The yearly tuition fees are: first year: P20,930; second year: P23,000; third-year: P25,250; fourth year: P26,830 and fifth year: P26,220. For inquiries, please call Leah R. Daep, sponsorship program, Erda Tech, Tel. Nos. 564-1856, 564-2608 or fax, 564-1774 or e-mail: erdatech@vasia.com or erdatech@skyinet.net.

A prayer for Erin

YOUNG BLOOD

Sonny Pasimio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I SIT IN BED TONIGHT, WATCHING RIA AND OUR 2-month-old daughter Erin sleep side by side. Only a few things in the world are as breath-taking as this. It's still the biggest thrill for me: watching my two girls huddled close together in their matching blankets. In a few hours, our roles will be reversed. They will lie awake for their feeding session, while I try to catch some sleep under the sheets.

We spent the whole day today at the UST Hospital, where our little Erin had to go through a HIDA scan to rule out biliary atresia (BA), a condition where the bile ducts don't function and so bile is not flushed out of the body. It is a serious and life-threatening condition, to say the least. The only way to "cure" it is via the KASAI procedure, where the ducts are bypassed and the liver is connected directly to the small intestines. I put "cure" between quotation marks because the procedure provides transitory relief rather than the solution. It prevents further damage to the liver. It buys us a bit more time to raise funds and find a matching liver donor.

Well, the ruling out didn't happen. The good news is there wasn't any "ruling in" either—not yet. All that we know now, is that there is indeed an obstruction in Erin's ducts that prevents the bile from flowing out. Biliary atresia or not, our little angel will have to undergo surgery right away.

I don't know how I can begin to measure the pain that my wife and I are feeling at the moment. Imagining our daughter, a fragile infant, going under the knife is just unthinkable. Every night, we spend countless minutes chasing down that last mosquito in the room just to make sure it doesn't bite our baby. Ria becomes completely oblivious of our tight monthly budget by letting the air-conditioning unit run 24 hours just so Erin doesn't get rashes. Unthinkable. But we know that with God's blessing, we will survive this pain, and maybe emerge from it stronger.

We are a ball of mixed emotions right now. We bounce from fear to pain, to sorrow, to guilt, to denial and then to fear again. In spite of this, we are sustained by hope. Somehow, we know that the Lord will lead us gently through it all.

After the initial "why us?" (BA strikes 1 in every 15,000 live births), we began to persuade ourselves that there must be a reason why the Lord allowed this to happen. Beneath the fear and anxiety, we feel humbled, knowing that Erin has been singled out by God to serve a greater cause. Yes, our baby must be truly special.

At her very young age, Erin has already touched hundreds of lives, and she continues to do so by the minute. Text messages have been pouring nonstop from friends, acquaintances and even strangers, rallying around this little infant and cheering her on. Our families have never been closer and more united in prayer. Petty differences are, all of a sudden, forgotten and, more importantly, forgiven.

Even the doctors treating her, who I assume are trained not to show emotion, never fail to be touched by her smile and by her innocent stare, and they walk away with softer hearts.

Our officemates have bonded together, doing their best to pitch in and support us in every way possible. They have started a "Livestrong Erin" movement to raise funds for our little one.

People who have BA success stories and families of survivors have contacted and encouraged us, telling us to pray and place our unconditional trust in God.

Those who have already been kind to us become even more generous as the chain of one good deed leads to another. After all, who could possibly remain unaffected and uninspired by a baby who smiles bravely through all this adversity?

Truly, we see the Lord's hand in all this. We have never been more scared in our lives, but we have also never felt more loved. As we go through this ordeal, I humbly request the reader to say a short prayer with me and my wife for our little girl:

Dearest Lord, we thank You for this trial. We know that You love us and You love Erin, our firstborn. We humbly beg You to touch her with Your healing hand and make her new. Please let her feel Your loving presence and allow her to feel that Mama, Papa and everyone else love her dearly.

She is a feisty bundle of energy who wants to grow up and inspire people to live, love and be faithful to You. We pray that You grant her that chance to live a normal life, to enjoy the wonders of childhood and to experience that indescribable joy of someday hearing her own firstborn's cry.

We know, Lord, that there is nothing impossible to You. As You promised us: "Be not afraid, I go before you always…"

We surrender everything to You. Amen.

P.S. Erin's full name is Serene Isabel, meaning "Dedicated to the Lord."

Sonny Pasimio, 29, finished AB Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University. He works at Nestlé Philippines.

The 'mother's vaccine'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FIRST, A CORRECTION TO YESTERDAY'S COLumn. While I cited Dr. Genara Manuel-Limson as the source of an extensively quoted presentation on the cervical cancer burden in the Philippines, it was based on a paper prepared and first presented by Dr. Cecilia Ladines-Llave, chair of the PGH Cancer Institute, at the Johns Hopkins-JHPIEGO Global Conference on Low-Resource Setting Cervical Cancer Prevention held in Bangkok last year.

As shown in studies on the prevalence of cervical cancer in this country, the disease remains a threat to the health and lives of Filipino women. The reason so many women end up dying of the disease is that they are diagnosed too late, when their cancer can no longer be treated. And the reason is that only about 12 percent of Filipino women at risk are able to benefit from regular screening. In developed countries, death rates from cervical cancer have fallen dramatically as a result of the adoption of massive screening programs, and of high awareness rates, with women making the Pap Smear or other available tests part of their annual physical examination.

Who are the women particularly at risk of developing cervical cancer? Since the cancer has been linked to the human papilloma virus (HPV), which causes genital warts, women with warts in the anal and genital areas are considered high-risk. And because HPV is primarily transmitted through sexual intercourse, women who started having sex at a young age, have or had several sexual partners, and have or had a sexually transmitted disease should go for regular screening.

But even if a woman has had only one partner, she is still vulnerable if her partner has (or had) other sexual partners, has warts, or an STD. (Doctors I have talked with note that if a woman is planning to marry a widower whose wife died of cervical cancer, she should first have him and herself tested for HPV infection.)

Other factors to take into consideration: was or still is a smoker or is exposed to secondary smoke; used DES, a drug used to prevent miscarriage, or her mother used DES while pregnant with her; has five children or more; belongs to the "low socio-economic class"; and has compromised immune status or poor resistance to disease.

* * *

THE GOOD news is that an HPV infection or even a positive finding of pre-cancerous cells is not an automatic death sentence. A woman whose condition is detected early has at least a 10-year window of opportunity to get her disease under control and even get cured. Given the best scenario of early detection, effective treatment and the adoption of a healthy lifestyle, there is no reason a woman should die of cervical cancer.

Even better news is that younger women and girls may soon no longer need fear getting sick of or dying from cervical cancer. And the reason for this is the development of a vaccine against cervical cancer. To my knowledge, at least two multinational drug firms have been developing the vaccines, and one of them has already succeeded in getting their vaccine approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Last June, the US FDA approved the marketing of Gardasil, developed by Merck, which, says an article in the Los Angeles Times, "can prevent up to 70 percent of the 10,000 cases of cervical cancer diagnosed in the US each year." It was approved for use in females ages 9 years through 26.

The vaccine is given through three shots, administered over six months, and offers lifetime protection, although studies are still being conducted if "booster shots" would still be needed.

The bad news is that Gardasil costs about $360 (around P18,000), way, way beyond the capacity of the average Filipino. But at last week's meeting of the Cervical Cancer Prevention (Cecap) Network at the Asian Hospital, Dr. Llave noted that even at such a steep price, the vaccine is still cost-effective, given the savings that could be incurred from deferred treatment and therapy.

* * *

THE VACCINE works primarily by targeting the most common types of HPV that have been linked to cervical cancer, although authorities say it does not eliminate entirely the need for screening because it offers no protection against other HPV types.

It works best before a girl or a woman comes into contact with the HPV, that is, before she starts being sexually active.

In the Philippines, our own BFAD has yet to approve either Gardasil or another vaccine developed by Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK), both of which have already been widely clinically tested here.

While in the US there had been only token opposition raised against vaccinating 9-year-olds for fear of "encouraging" early sexual initiation, representatives of GSK at the Cecap meeting said the vaccine merited "high acceptability" among Filipino parents, "especially when they understand that it provides protection against cancer."

Indeed, this has been called "the mother's vaccine," as it is believed that mothers would be the primary movers of any campaign to make the vaccine available, providing as it does protection against a disease that targets and could kill their daughters.

When participants at the Cecap forum raised the prohibitive cost of the vaccine, the GSK representatives clarified that their company has a policy of offering their products at lower cost in poor and developing countries. Economies of scale should also lower the price of each vaccine dose if women avail of it in great numbers.

Given the high initial cost of the vaccine, the lack of mass screening programs and low awareness about cervical cancer, we may still continue to see hundreds of Filipinas dying of the disease. But we are seeing some light at last, and they may be, let us pray, among the last cervical cancer fatalities here.

The rape of freedom in Burma

WORLD VIEW

Nursyahbani Katjasungkana, Eva K. Sundari and Teresa Kok Suh Sim

GENDER-BASED SEXUAL VIOLENCE OBSTRUCTS peace and development, particularly when it is used by military dictatorships as a weapon against their own peoples. Burma is now permeated by such state-sponsored violence.

Systematic sexual violence became visible in Burma when the Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN) and the Shan Human Rights Foundation (SHRF) published "License to Rape," a report which documents 625 cases of rape committed by the military in eastern Burma between 1996 and 2001. The report noted that in those cases nobody has been prosecuted.

Burma is suffering from decades of civil war. Civilians have become the main victims of a strategy aimed at undermining the guerrillas—a strategy which has resulted in forced labor, the use of human minesweepers and massive relocation of entire villages. There are now an estimated 600,000 to one million internal refugees in Burma.

SWAN and SHRF argue that rape is used as a weapon in the Burmese military's war against ethnic minorities. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable—owing to gender as well as ethnicity—to a horrific practice whose aim is to demonstrate the army's power and punish those who confront it. When the army enters a village, chaos erupts. Villagers are killed or ordered to pack their belongings and leave. Several of the reported rapes took place under such conditions, or when women are taken for forced labor.

Many victims have fled Burma. SWAN and SHRF came to know of many cases from women who are now in Thailand. In February 2006, we visited a refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border and learned firsthand of the war and the abuses in Burma.

"License to Rape" has attracted wide attention in Southeast Asia. Kraisak Choonhavan, chair of the Thai Senate's Foreign Relations Committee and vice chair of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar [Burma] Caucus (AIPMC), called for an investigation by the United Nations. So did the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Commission.

Rape brings stigma, shame and reluctance on the part of victims to speak out about what happened to them. But an increasing number of women and girls from Burma have begun to tell of their experiences (rape and other forms of sexual violence) in the country's war-torn areas. Army deserters confirm that rapes have occurred. And the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women has published material that corroborates information in "License to Rape" and adds numerous new cases in Burma.

Nevertheless, four years on, a UN investigation has yet to take place, because the military junta refuses to grant the UN access to the country. Incidents of rape continue to be reported, and the Burmese military surely must know what is happening. But the junta engages in Orwellian doublethink. It has rejected the reports; instead it has launched its own investigations whose conduct and staffing leave no room for confidence in their credibility.

National governments and the international community have an obligation to protect women and children against abuse. In 2000, the UN Security Council, recognizing that gender-based violence thwarts security, adopted Resolution 1325, which calls on parties in conflict to respect the rights of women and children, and particularly to prevent gender-based violence. In 2004, the governments of the Asean, vowing to end the impunity that states like Burma have enjoyed, signed the "Declaration to Eliminate Violence Against Women in the Asean Region."

Burma is failing miserably to live up to the standards of decency that the Southeast Asian region is setting for itself. It has ratified the UN Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Moreover, a national committee exists for the advancement of women. But such measures are of no use when the military remains firmly in control, the rule of law is absent and the government refuses to admit to the systematic sexual violence committed by its soldiers as they terrorize the population.

Asean cannot afford to stand by idly. Neither can the international community. Such abuse of power is inadmissible, and we expect Asean to address the military's use of rape in the conflict in Burma. We urge the UN Security Council to raise the issue. All of Burma's people deserve security, and victims of gender-based violence need the world's solidarity and support. ***Project Syndicate***

Nursyahbani Katjasungkana and Eva K. Sundari are MPs in Indonesia. Teresa Kok Suh Sim is an MP in Malaysia.

IN THE NEWS

Christian Monsod

mercury drug
MAKASISIGURO GANOT AY LAGING RAGO

DISCOUNTS FOR SUKI CARD HOLDERS!

SUKI SABADO SPECIAL

AUG 12 to AUG 18, 2006

GLUTAPHOS
GLUTAMIC acid
DICALCIUM phosphate
THIAMINE hydrochloride
VITAMIN B1
GLUTAPHOS TAB
REG. PRICE: P 5.25
5.00

POTEN-CEE
ASCORBIC ACID
POTEN-CEE 500MG 20
REG. PRICE: P 74.00
70.25
POTEN-CEE 500MG
REG. PRICE: P 3.70
3.50
Adverse Reaction: rare

ELEVIT
MULTIVITAMINS + MINERALS
ELEVIT PRONATAL TAB
REG. PRICE P 9.30
8.75

BONAMINE
MECLIZINE HCl
BONAMINE TAB 25MG
REG. PRICE: P 10.75
9.75
Adverse Reaction: Drowsiness, Dry Mouth

MASTER FC A-BAC CLR 70ML
REG. PRICE P 27.50
26.00
MASTER FC A-BAC CLR 135ML
REG. PRICE P 41.00
38.75
MASTER FC A-BAC CLR 225ML
REG. PRICE P 58.25
55.25
MASTER FC A-BAC CLSSC 70ML
REG. PRICE P 27.50
26.00
MASTER FC A-BAC CLSSC 135ML
REG. PRICE P 41.00
38.75
MASTER FC A-BAC CLSSC 225ML
REG. PRICE P 58.25
55.25
MASTER FC A-BAC DERMA-C 70ML
REG. PRICE P 31.50
29.75
MASTER FC A-BAC DERMA-C 135ML
REG. PRICE P 45.00
42.75
MASTER FC A-BAC DERMA-C 225ML
REG. PRICE P 67.25
63.75

PONDS DETOX FLUID 40ML
REG. PRICE: P 72.50
68.75
PONDS BEAUTY CPDR PORSHM 50G
REG. PRICE P 30.25
28.75
PONDS BEAUTY CPDR PBLUSH 50G
REG. PRICE P 30.25
28.75

Suki Card Program Guidelines
1. The Suki Card Program is available to all customers over 18 years old.
2. To receive a Suki Card, customer must present receipt(s) of single or cumulative purchases worth P1,000.00 made from any Mercury Drug Store.
3. Suki Card Members are entitled to discounts from participating products.
4. All purchases made through the Suki Card will earn points. Every purchase of P200.00 is equivalent to 1 point.
5. Mercury Drug Suki Points are redeemable in multiples of 10 points. Every Suki Point is equivalent to P1.00
6. Always present your Suki Card before making any purchases.
7. Mercury Drug reserves the right to modify or restrict the usage of the card without prior notice.

The Suki Card program is available in all Metro Manila branches including Bulacan (except Baliuag), Cavite, Laguna (except San Pablo), Rizal, Botolan, Olongapo, Pampanga, Baguio, La Trinidad, La Union, Ilocos, Nueva, Naga Elias Angeles, Naga Peñafrancia, Tagbilaran, all branches in Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Antique, Davao, Surigao, Misamis Oriental, Agusan and Butuan.
Right reserved to limit quantities on all items. These promo discounts shall not be used together with any other discount privilege.
For other promos, please visit our website at www.mercurydrug.com

Anti-poor policies of SSS

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I AM CALLING THE ATTENTION OF Social Security System president Corazon S. de la Paz and EVP Horacio T. Templo to the current SSS policy re the disability claims of members, particularly on: (1) non-availability of birth certificate, (2) late reporting of birth certificate, (3) date of birth, first name or family name, etc.

In the past, a person applying for membership with the SSS was not required to present a copy of his birth certificate. Millions of SSS members were registered before the computerization of its files and records system. A problem arises when a member who registered during the non-computerized system files a claim and a discrepancy is noted in the computer data with regard to his reported fact of birth. The claimant is advised to submit a copy of his birth certificate (normally issued by the National Statistics Office) or secondary evidence such as school records, marriage contract, etc. If he cannot secure a copy, he is advised to file a case with the Social Security Commission (SSC).

To file a case requires tremendous effort, time and money. If a poor member was born in a faraway province, he has to go to the province or contact relatives to secure the required documentation. With document on hand and money to pay for lawyer's fees, he can proceed to the SSC. In the event that he has no money, how can he pursue his case?

If the birth of Juan de la Cruz was not properly reported to the proper agency but he can legally prove that he is really the Juan de la Cruz who is a member of the SSS, why deny him his legal right to receive benefits?

In retirement claims, it is a must to establish the fact and date of birth and the real age of the retiree. But why harshly impose the same requirement on disability claims? In denying the disability claims of members who cannot comply with the birth certificate requirement or who have no means to correct their computer data file, the SSS is making millions of pesos by way of savings. This policy is outrageously repugnant to the SSS' noble mission and vision of providing a poor member a "replacement income" when a disability occurs.

Please note: (1) The SSS law has this policy declaration to promote social justice and provide meaningful protection to members and their beneficiaries against the hazards of disability, sickness, maternity, old age, death. (2) Eveline M. Burns in her "Toward Social Security" declares: The essence of the contributory plan is that it gives people a contractual right to an income in the future. (3) The SSS Code provides: "The provisions of the SSS law as well as of this Code shall be liberally construed in favor of coverage, protection, security and welfare of (member) employees."

SSS officials should have a compassionate heart and should understand the plight of poor SSS members who are the hapless victims of SSS' anti-poor policy.

—RUPERTO V. TALAN,
4 Masigasig St., Pinyahan,
Diliman, Quezon City

Columnist keeps beating a dead horse

THIS IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE column titled "Problem shelving," written by Conrado Banal III. (PDI, 8/1/09) The article discussed the shareholdings of the Social Security System in Equitable PCIBank.

It is clear that Banal can no longer be objective, impartial and responsible in his writings. He keeps repeating erroneous claims about the SSS, and he has closed his eyes to the truth. We have done all we could to point out the facts, the INQUIRER even publishing our side on April 8, May 3 and June 27.

In this latest column, Banal wrote the following:

1. "Anyway, right after the news about Roumualdez's ouster broke out, the market price of EPCIB shares plummeted by P11 per *(sic)* in just a single day."

This is pure speculation. The reason behind the drop in the share prices of EPCIB was the announcement of Corazon de la Paz at the bank's shareholders meeting that there was no existing merger talks with Banco de Oro. According to newspaper reports, which quoted stock market analysts, the price of the shares went back to its earlier level after a few days.

2. "With the brilliant CPA board topnotcher De la Paz as its president, the SSS agreed to sell its shares to the SM group for only P43.50 per, after a hastily called marathon meeting of the commission en banc—on a nonworking holiday in 2003, at that—which was right before the controversial 2004 presidential elections."

The statement is full of holes. The meeting with BDO was held on Dec. 30 which was not a holiday. It was a regular working day because the celebration of Rizal Day was moved to another date. And it was not the only time the Social Security Commission met on the issue. The SSC met a number of times prior to Dec. 30 to thresh out some issues with the buyer.

Incidentally, the P43.50 per share offered by BDO represented a 30 percent premium of EPCIB's last traded price of P33.50 on Dec. 30.

Banal keeps beating a dead horse. Under the terms of the Share Purchase Agreement, the SSS and BDO must agree to the sale on or before June 30, 2004. The deadline was not met and the agreement lapsed.

The SSS does not mind correcting Banal's glaring errors because it is our responsibility to protect the integrity of the institution from unfair attacks. It is not our concern that he destroys his own reputation with his inaccuracies.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

'Supermaid' idea demeans Filipinos

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH a leader who wants to keep her own countrywomen as servants—"super maids," maybe, but still servants.

Many of the overseas Filipino workers are degree holders—teachers, business administration graduates, secretaries, etc. So, instead of castigating recruiters and foreign employers for downgrading, degrading and deploying tens of thousands of her countrywomen as servants, President Macapagal-Arroyo would rather keep them as such. What kind of leader is she who, instead of insisting that her countrywomen be paid with salaries that befit their profession, would rather upgrade their skills as servants? Maybe, this is Ms Arroyo's brand of economics—as long as the OFWs send money home, she doesn't care about the kind of work and living conditions they endure.

If Ms Arroyo were really a good economist, she would have thought instead of upgrading the OFWs' skills so that they would qualify as tutors, secretaries and assistants, and technicians.

Her Cabinet officials, who nodded their heads in approval of her "super maid" idea in a televised roundtable discussion, showed themselves as nothing but spineless "yes men and women" who, by sycophancy, degrade our own countrywomen.

—LEANDRO V. CORONEL

Nothing but wishes

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO DEclared in her fantasy-laden 2006 State of the Nation Address that "we now have the money to pay down our debt and build up our country." After which she enumerated the grand and ambitious mega-projects that she envisioned to put up all over the country. Soon after, it became clear that the national government simply does not have sufficient funds to undertake all those projects. It now appears that the government's economic managers expect the following to finance the projects: (1) local government units, (2) government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), (3) private investors—local and foreign—through the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme, (4) more borrowings by the national government.

The joke is on the local officials—after they served as cheerleaders and barkers during the Sona. After clapping their hands red, they thought all along that the national government will finance the projects in their localities. Pity them. They have been taken for a ride by their President. How in the world can the GOCCs finance the projects when most of them have been losing in the past decades? In fact, the national government has been subsidizing most of them, even as others are now deep in debt, after continually providing their executives with extravagant perks.

On the matter of investor financing, there are very few who are willing to shell out substantial funding for big-ticket projects, considering the government's reputation in the investor community. Many investors are in fact on the wait-and-see mode, knowing fully well what happened to big-ticket BOT projects in the past (e.g., Fraport and the still unopened Naia 3). Other BOT projects on stream are themselves mired in unresolved legal, financial and technical issues. Deal or no deal? For many investors, it is still "No Deal."

On the matter of resorting to more borrowings, this is simply imprudent. We are not yet off the hook in our debt crisis. To show off, President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to plunge our country deeper in debt by lining up those mega-projects.

At least in the TV program "Wish Ko Lang," the wishes of the program beneficiaries come true. The President's Sona wish list contains just that. Wishes.

—FERDIE T. SIBAL,
18 Green Leaves St.,
Capitol Green Village,
Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following:

	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
1.	CY 2007 Canteen Concessioning & Catering Services		(consumption basis)	Php 300.00
2.	CY 2007 Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment & supervision of Water Treatment Program for 3-360 TR Cooling Towers	lot	Php 240,000.00/yr	200.00
3.	CY 2007 Corporate Health Program (HMO)		Php 15,500,000.00/yr	200.00
4.	CY 2007 General Housekeeping & Other Related Services	lot	Php 15,500,000.00/yr	200.00
5.	CY 2007 Hauling & Disposal of Garbage using a compactor garbage truck with at least 10 cubic meter capacity	lot	Php 168,000.00/yr	200.00
6.	CY 2007 Internet Subscription	lot	Php 1,500,000.00/yr	200.00
7.	CY 2007 Supply of labor, materials & equipment for total quality pest control	lot	Php 180,000.00/yr	200.00
8.	CY 2007 Hardware Maintenance & Computer & Peripherals		Php 1,400,000.00/yr	200.00
9.	CY 2007 Supply of labor, materials, tools, equipment & supervision of Preventive Maintenance for 3-360TR York Chillers	lot	Php 300,000.00/yr	200.00
10.	CY 2007 Rental of 62 units Photocopying Machines	lot	Php 1.50/cpy	200.00
11.	CY 2007 Rental of Nine (9) units Drinking Fountains	lot	Php 172,800.00/yr	200.00
12.	CY 2007 Rental of three (3) Shuttle Buses	lot	Php 1,950,000.00/yr	200.00
13.	CY 2007 Supply, delivery, installation, checkup, maintenance & refilling of 130 units Sanitizers & 27 units Automatic Air Fresheners (aerosols or spray type)	lot	Php 260,000.00/yr	200.00
14.	CY 2007 Subscription to Cable TV (CaTV)	lot	Php 600,000.00/yr	200.00
15.	CY 2007 Subscription to Local/International Newspapers & Magazines		Php 1,400,000.00/yr	200.00
16.	CY 2007 Subscription to Local/International Journals & Reviews		Php 170,000.00/yr	200.00
17.	CY 2007 Supply of Flowers		Php 400,000.00/yr	200.00
18.	CY 2007 Supply of Gasoline, Diesel, Fuel Oil, accessories & related products	lot	(consumption basis)	200.00
19.	Supply of labor & materials for the repair & renovation of 20 common comfort rooms at the Senate	lot	Php 4,600,000.00	500.00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **1:30 PM to 5:00 PM, August 14-17 & 21-24, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. **Interested bidders will be advised of the schedule of pre-bidding conference/s by fax.** Said meetings will be held at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ALTERNATIVE BIDS SHALL BE REJECTED.**

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org., Senate website at www.senate.gov.ph and posted at 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For inquiry, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro)

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO 1) REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; 2) REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; 3) CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD; 4) WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN; and/or 5) ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. ANY DECISION MADE BY THE SENATE IS FINAL AND EXECUTORY.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SAID PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING PROCESS NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 12 & 18, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Hospital Supplies (Re-bid)
(Gen. Appropriations Act 2006 & Continuing Appropriation)

1 The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, through the General Appropriations Act 2006 and Continuing Appropriations intends to apply the sum of *Php 6,142,528.40* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Supply and Delivery of Hospital Supplies (Re-bid)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at Bid opening

2 The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Supply and Delivery of Hospital Supplies (Re-bid)*. Delivery of the GOODS required is *10 calendar days*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4 Interested Bidders may obtain further information from GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BAC Chairman, ***Luz R. Rosales*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 1:00–5:00 p.m.

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address given below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00 per category*. The method of payment will be *Cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 24, 2006 / 2:00 PM at GCGMH Audio Visual Room.***

7 Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the *GCGMH Audio Visual Room on or before 10:00 A.M. on the scheduled opening of bids per category*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash	One percent (1%)
2. GSIS Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)

8 Bid opening shall be on the following schedules listed below at 10:00 A.M. at *GCGMH Audio-Visual Room*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Date	Category
September 11, 2006	Drugs and Medicine Supplies
September 14, 2006	Laboratory Supplies
September 18, 2006	Medical / Surgical Supplies
September 20, 2006	Miscellaneous Supplies
	Housekeeping Supplies
	Dietary Supplies
	Engineering Supplies
September 21, 2006	Dental Supplies
	X-ray Supplies
	Office Supplies
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Group says PNP now running 'jueteng'

By Christian V. Esguerra

MOVE OVER POLITICIANS, POLICEMEN ARE now running the "jueteng" show.

Regional and provincial directors of the Philippine National Police (PNP) have quietly taken over operations of the lucrative underworld lottery, according to a former jueteng operator.

In a press conference by the newly formed Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Sugal, Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor said these police officials had essentially increased their supposed loot by now calling the shots.

"Regional directors are now the ones running jueteng operations," he said yesterday, citing information from his former colleagues in the underworld business.

"Time will come when civilians will be out of the picture. That's why they're now rushing to get as much money as they can so they won't be empty-handed once policemen have completely taken over."

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, the group's leader, said the 16 known jueteng lords in the country were now "somehow by the wayside" owing to the reported takeover of some police officers.

He had submitted the names of these gambling lords during Senate investigations last year, but none of them was charged or brought to prison.

Sources in the jueteng industry identified the following as alleged financiers of the underworld lottery—Dante del Mundo, Camarines Norte; Hermie Herrera, Camarines Sur; Tony Ong, Albay; Leony Lim, Sorsogon; Ganie Cupcupin, Cavite; Charing Magbuhos, Quezon; Bong Pineda, Pampanga; an alias Peter, Bulacan; Bong Pineda, Bataan; Peping Beldan, Zambales; Mike Borra, Isabela; Clyde Bermudez and Lito Mendoza, Pangasinan.

"The key operation and management of jueteng in the country has been transferred by and large to the PNP and regional directors," said Bishop Cruz.

Cruz challenged PNP chief Director General Oscar Calderon to immediately stop jueteng operations.

"It's a shame to have a police force that is precisely the cause of illegitimate gambling activities in the country," he said. "That is a shame because all the while we thought that the police department stands for law and order but with this development, the police department is becoming an instrument of disorder."

With jueteng operations now allegedly "100-percent" back in the whole of Luzon, Mayor said PNP regional directors and their underlings were getting 9 percent of the total monthly gambling take in their areas of jurisdiction.

In his home province Albay, a known hotbed of jueteng, he said the percentage could translate to a monthly loot of P5.4 to P6 million.

Regional directors are usually ranked chief superintendent, which is equivalent to a one-star general in the military.

A police regional director gets up to P1.4 million in monthly grease money from jueteng, said Mayor.

Mayor said the police takeover of jueteng operations could be gleaned from the fact that local officials had supposedly become increasingly helpless in fighting the gambling menace.

He cited the case of Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca who tried, and failed, to stamp out jueteng in her province.

Last year, she even sought help from Malacañang and the Department of Interior and Local Government but allegedly got none, he said.

"Before, if politicians said 'no' to jueteng, there's no jueteng," he said. "Now, even if they say 'no,' nothing happens especially if they belong to the opposition."

BASIC NEED NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Children evacuees who fled the continuing lava flow and gas emissions from Mayon fetch water from a common pump at the Gogon Elementary School that was transformed into a temporary shelter for them.

Japan role in peace effort seen big help

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISlamic Liberation Front (MILF) has lauded Japan for promising to send representatives to an international monitoring team (IMT) that seeks to ensure that the ceasefire agreement between the government and rebel group is holding.

"We hope it would trigger a bandwagon effect for other countries, especially the European Union and Scandinavian countries," said Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs. He noted that Japan is the first non-Organization of the Islamic Conference country to make such move.

Jaafar's statement was supported by Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, who said the involvement of Japan in the IMT was a "giant leap for the GRP-MILF peace process and could encourage other nations to join."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye earlier announced that Japan's desire to engage more actively in the peace process in Mindanao came after Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Azo met with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Both the government and MILF requested non-OIC member-countries to join in the pursuit of the elusive peace in the southern Philippines. Japan initiated the first positive response.

"Japan has decided to participate in the IMT by sending an official who will play a leading role in the economic and social development area," Bunye said on July 22.

Unlike Malaysia, which has led the peace monitors in the past two years, Japan will not be sending military forces as ceasefire observers but will help in the economic aspect of the process.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila is sending officials to help speed up the process, along with officials of the Japanese International Aid and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, among other agencies.

"This is an unprecedented decision that could possibly send shock waves to other countries which are still watching at the sidelines. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Farmers' group leader latest in list of murder of leftists

CALAMBA CITY—A leader of a farmers' organization here was added to the growing list of murdered militants under the Arroyo administration after he was gunned down by motorcycle-riding men in Cabuyao, Laguna on Thursday.

Gilbert Jamile, 40, a resident of Sitio Buntog, Barangay Canlubang, Calamba City and employee of Storck Phils, became the 139th victim of political killings in Southern Tagalog since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001.

He was also the third militant leader from Calamba who was ambushed by motorcycle-riding men in the last eight months.

An INQUIRER tally put him as the 246th militant killed in the last five years while Karapatan said he was the 721st fatality in the same period.

A report from the Cabuyao police station said Jamile was driving his motorcycle on his way home when two unidentified men on a Honda Wave motorcycle waylaid him at around 5:30 p.m. near the posh Canlubang Country Club in Terrelay, Sitio Pittland in Barangay Gizmo.

The crime scene was about 1.5 kilometers from Camp Vicente Lim, the regional headquarters of the Philippine National Police in Calabarzon.

The suspects were seen headed to Calamba after the murder.

The same report said the victim had just come from his work at the factory of Storck Phils with his brother-in-law, Edwin Panopio.

Jamile died of gunshot wounds in the head and body while Panopio, who was riding on the back of the victim's motorcycle, escaped the ambush unscathed.

A CANDLE is lit in Legazpi City for one of the slain militants. Many more candles are to be lit as the list of murdered militants continues to grow. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/ INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Doris Cuario, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, said Jamile was a board member and organizer of the Samahan ng Magsasakang Nagkakaisa sa Buntog (Samana-Buntog), an affiliate of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

He belied the report of the Cabuyao police that the victim was an inactive member of the group.

"Aside from his work organizing farmers in their community, (Jamile) was also a driver of the jeep we usually use during rallies," Cuario told the INQUIRER.

Cuario said they suspect the killing was connected with the fight of the Samana-Buntog members to claim a 360-hectare farmland inside the vast Yulo estate.

The area is planted with corn, vegetables, mangoes, bananas and coconut, she said.

The report of the Cabuyao police said Jamile was a suspect in the killing of a certain Angel Gomez, who was shot dead in Barangay Canlubang here last June.

A police investigator, who declined to be identified, said the victim's involvement in the murder of Gomez was "the most possible motive" in the killing.

"We got information that the relatives of the victim wanted to get back at Jamile," the police officer said.

But Cuario belittled the supposed involvement of Jamile in the murder case.

"That's impossible. People from our community never suspected (Jamile) of killing Gomez. His (Jamile) time record at his company would show that he was at the factory when the killing happened," the resident said.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Organic coffee saves Negros forest

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

TWO FORMER FOES ARE REDISCOVERING an old industry that is also putting a stop to environmental destruction in the upland village of Canlusong in EB Magalona, Negros Occidental, about 23 km north of Bacolod City.

They have gone back to producing organic coffee and the skills inherited from their ancestors and applied in production have kept the aroma and taste of their brew far more superior than the most expensive name brands.

From 1970 to 1986, coffee production in Canlusong was abundant but the companies that bought coffee beans from the villagers shifted to importation in the mid-1980s and coffee prices plummeted.

So the villagers abandoned their coffee farms located beneath the canopy of trees in the forest about 29 km from the town proper. It is in this forest where the near extinct Negros spotted deer, warty pigs, Golden Crown and Flying Fox bats still thrive.

Some resorted to charcoal-making to survive at the expense of the trees in Canlusong's forest, according to EB Magalona Mayor Alfonso Gamboa.

FARMERS Morlito Isidro (center in brown hat) and Fernando Porras (in red cap) with their fellow coffee growers in Barangay Canlusong, EB Magalona, Negros Occidental. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The foes

As the coffee fields were abandoned and the trees in the forest that protected their crop fell victim to poachers, coffee farmers and village mates Morlito Isidro, now 49, became a commander of the New People's Army in northern Negros and Fernando Porras, 53, headed a Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit team.

Last year, Gamboa; a strong environment protection advocate, urged the villagers to resume producing organic coffee after he had the economic potential of each barangay in his town assessed.

Gamboa says, while it is important to protect the environment, one cannot eat it unless one finds a livelihood that will hit two birds with one stone.

In the case of Canlusong, Gamboa believed the villagers will not only make a lot of money from producing organic coffee, they will be more vigilant about protecting the forest because the trees in it serve as a canopy for their coffee farms.

Gamboa said Canlusong residents can produce one percent of the coffee needs of the entire Philippines through organic method and earn a lot of money.

Cebu trip

To drive home his point, he took Morlito and Fernando to Cebu, brought them to two famous coffee houses, the international chain Starbucks and the local Bo's Café, and showed them how much coffee houses were making from the brew.

He also arranged a meeting between the two Canlusong coffee growers and coffee shop owners and buyers, the mayor said.

"Starbucks coffee is so expensive, yet Canlusong coffee is far more superior," Morlito said.

Although Morlito was once an NPA fighter and Fernando was a Cafgu leader, they now found a common cause—leading their village into prosperity via their organically grown coffee.

Morlito, who has six children, said he joined the NPA when he was 26 and stayed with the movement for 10 years.

But he realized that he wanted to work for development and the environment and decided to leave the NPA.

In 2000 he joined the nongovernment Multi Sectoral Alliance for Development-Negros, and created a group called the Biodiversity Monitoring and Evaluation Team that operated in Canlusong.

He owned a 35-hectare land in Canlusong, 12 ha of which were planted to 11,000 coffee trees that were organically grown.

He said that with the mayor's encouragement and upon seeing its potential in the current market, he has stepped up the cultivation of his coffee plantation.

Fernando, who has five children, joined the Cafgu from 1988 to 1994.

He said he kept his Cafgu men away from Morlito's rebel forces to avoid their having to fight each other in those days.

Working together

Today, Fernando works along with Morlito in biodiversity monitoring in their village and is excited about the opportunities of reviving the coffee industry there to augment his family's income.

Gamboa said they have counted 98,000 coffee trees in Canlusong but the number could be as high as 250,000.

That is because 107 farmers plant coffee on 295 ha in Canlusong, with each hectare having a capacity for 900 trees, he explained.

The trees are of the best five coffee varieties: Exelsa, Robusta, Barako, Arabica and Brazil, but the bulk of the trees are Robusta, Gamboa said.

The coffee plants in Canlusong are grown just with "pruning and tender loving care," no fertilizers and pesticides, Gamboa said.

The farmers defy the generation of instant coffee with the organic varieties that they roast the way their grandparents did before them, the mayor said.

"Their coffee is so good, you can smell its aroma from a distance," he bragged.

They were now studying how to help the farmers package and market their coffee, he said. Among others, they hoped to find funds so the Canlusong farmers can avail of moisture testers and packaging equipment so that they can market their produce better, Gamboa added.

The farmers were ready to sell their beans to wholesalers and coffee shops.

and those interested in buying can call (034) 4951100, Gamboa adds.

The state of the purse is not an issue in Mambangon Spring (below). People from all walks of life dip into its clear and cool waters any time of the day. PHOTOS BY HAZEL P. VILLA

Simple joys at Negros Occidental's Mambangon Spring

By Hazel P. Villa
La Castellana, Negros Occidental

BEAUTY COMES EASY IN LA Castellana town in Negros Occidental. The sun rises and gently nudges out the hovering early morning mist over the rice fields near the Kanlaon Volcano as carabaos carrying farmers amble down the rock-and-boulder-strewn slope toward a natural spring.

It's a good thing there are as many picturesque spots on the islands of Western Visayas as there are people who are short on money for that much-desired vacation.

Mambangon Spring Resort in La Castellana, southwest of central Negros Occidental, is the sort of place where you can enjoy the pleasant scenery and swim with nary a care in the world for that designer two-piece swimwear or what people think of your bulging belly or the fact that you have less than P500 in your pocket.

A two-hour drive away from Bacolod City, Mambangon Spring in Barangay Cabacungan is 40 km from the volcano, another haven for backpackers looking for affordable thrills.

All sorts of people find joy in the lush vegetation and the cool waters of the spring, which is three- to nine-feet deep and with a circumference of 150 m—just below the hill with an all-encompassing view of the town's rice plantations and sugar fields.

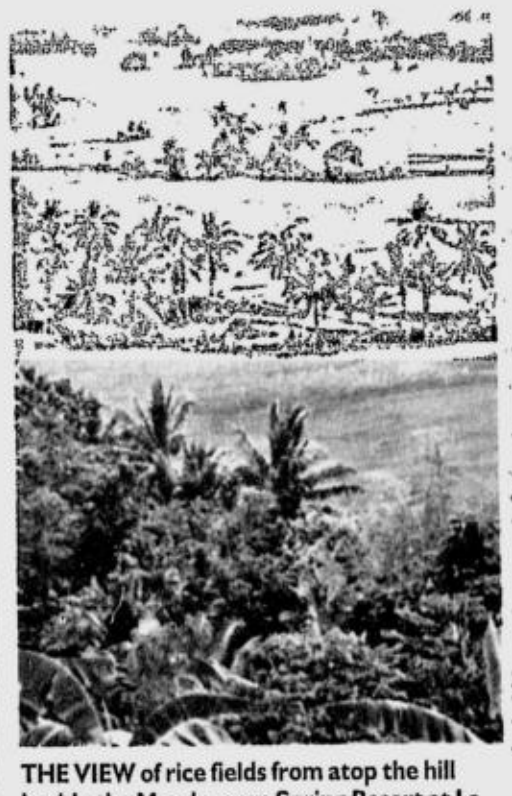
The 9-year-old resort is the sort of literal watering hole that anybody can afford. Entrance fee is P10 for children and P15 for adults who can swim to their heart's content all day long.

The place, managed by Rey Caduhada in behalf of eight other owners, has 30 cottages that can be rented for P300-P500 for a day's stay. There are still no accommodations for an overnight stay.

Visitors have to cook their own food since a canteen has yet to be built and the resort management opts for a "survivor" feel.

Getting there

Take a Ceres bus from Bacolod City to La Castellana for P70 and take a tricycle to Cabacungan at P10 per person. If many passengers are going to the spring, the bus driver is sometimes kind enough to just go straight to the resort and drop them off.



THE VIEW of rice fields from atop the hill beside the Mambangon Spring Resort at La Castellana town, Negros Occidental.

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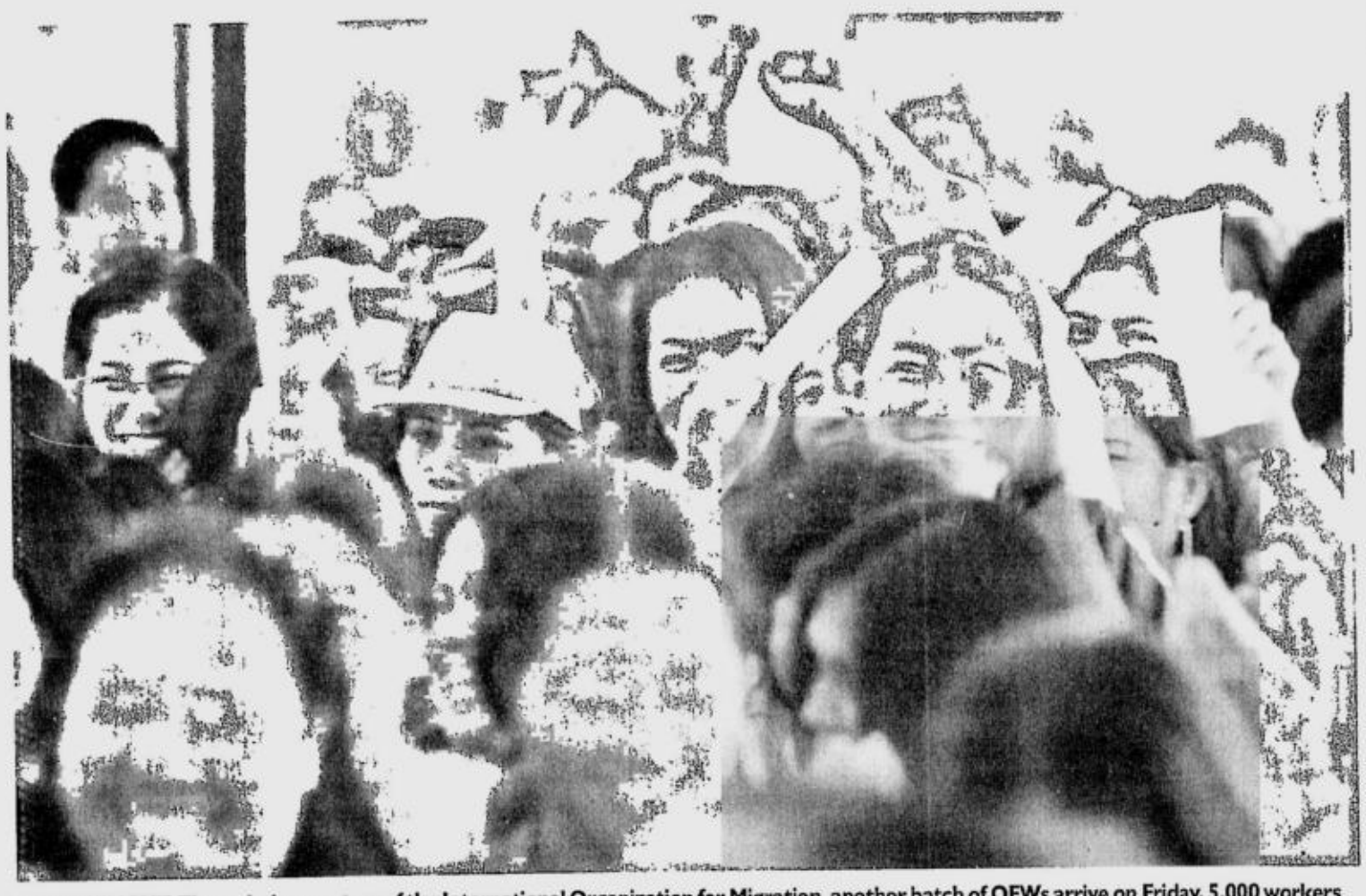
Saved from Hezbollah rockets, but ...



MERCY FLIGHT: Through the courtesy of the International Organization for Migration, another batch of OFWs arrive on Friday. 5,000 workers have returned since their wholesale repatriation started shortly after the outbreak of the Israel-Hezbollah conflict on July 12. JESS YUSON

By Cristina Arzadon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAOAG CITY—ELMA DANAO was saved on Aug. 2 when she and her employer fled Lebanon to escape the air strikes that wrecked the flat they were occupying.

But Danao, 51, of Barangay Mandaloque in Dingras, Ilocos Norte, met her death reportedly in the hands of her employer's son. He was said to have stabbed her when she tried to intervene in a quarrel between him and his mother.

Danao's body is to arrive today at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Israel on board Thai Airways.

Her husband, Pio Danao, will take the body home to Ilocos Norte tomorrow.

A document sent by the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv to the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration office in Laoag showed that Danao died on Aug. 4. It quoted a report by the Rakivet police in Israel.

Owwa officer Leonavella Dadiz said the circumstances surrounding Danao's death had yet to be officially declared.

Pio Danao said his wife last called on Aug. 2, informing him that they would evacuate from the border of Lebanon, where her employer's house is located, to escape the bomb attacks.

"She told me they would move to another house because the explosions were very close to the house they were occupying," he said.

Dadiz quoted reports from the Philippine Embassy in Israel as saying that Danao tried to break a fight between her employer and the latter's son by escorting the mother out of the house.

"It was at this point that the son vented his ire on Elma and stabbed her at least five times," Dadiz said, adding that the son was reportedly suffering from a mental illness.

Lesson for bickering pols: In crisis, OFWs bond

From page A1

Yesterday, 450 OFWs arrived in Manila on board Orient Thai Airways' flight OX 7448, which touched down at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 10:45 a.m.

Another 29 OFWs arrived via Etihad Airways' flight EY 427, which arrived at 3 p.m.

Today and tomorrow, two flights bearing 450 OFWs each are scheduled to arrive. Another batch of 450 is expected on Tuesday.

All these flights are funded by the IOM, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

DFA spokesperson Bert Asuque said that as of yesterday, a total of 4,200 OFWs had returned from Lebanon on government- and IOM-chartered flights.

The DFA is optimistic that the new draft resolution of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which is to be voted on today, may end the fighting in Lebanon—and eventually, the government's evacuation of Filipinos there.

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. yesterday said that based on DFA field assessments, the new draft had "better chances than the first" of getting the approval of all UN members.

"Hope springs eternal," Conejos told reporters at a Palace briefing. He said the Philippines "should not stop hoping for a diplomatic solution" to end the month-old fighting between Israeli and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

Conejos said the first UNSC draft resolution—which called for an immediate ceasefire but did not require the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon—was rejected by Israel, Lebanon and the Arab League.

He said the new draft called for "an immediate ceasefire" and "a gradual disengagement" by Israeli and Hezbollah forces, "to be replaced by Lebanese and forces from the international peacekeeping force of the UN."

Not at this time

"Once the UN peacekeeping force is in place, I think that is the time we can say that we should terminate [our] evacuation procedures," Conejos said.

But it is also important to closely watch the implementation of the ceasefire because it can be violated and "the fighting will flare up again, and then there will be evacuations again," he said.

"Prudence dictates that we should not dismantle at this time but wait until a permanent cessation of hostilities is firmly in place," he added.

In the meantime, Conejos said, the evacuation and repatriation of OFWs in Lebanon would continue.

He acknowledged that "the expected exodus of OFWs did not happen" in the aftermath of Israel's bombardment last week of a major land route that Filipinos were using to get to Damascus.

He agreed that should a ceasefire be eventually put in place, this would prompt more OFWs not to join the evacuation.

Enough funds

By Tuesday, the government would have brought home 5,550 of the 30,000 OFWs in Lebanon, Conejos said.

"As long as the threat remains, we should keep [evacuation] procedures in place," he said.

Conejos said the government continued to have enough funds to evacuate and repatriate the OFWs.

He said the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration still had P357 million from the P500-million fund allocated for repatriation.

To accelerate the evacuation of OFWs, Manila last week sent a note verbale to Beirut asking it to "advise its citizens to allow our OFWs to leave because of this war," Conejos said.

"That is the highest form of communication we can possibly direct to a friendly government, and we have done that," he said.

Beirut has yet to respond to Manila's request, according to Conejos.

But he said Beirut's inaction was not a cause for concern.

"Of course, Beirut has its own priorities. Its priority is survival," he said, adding:

"But I've said I'm not waiting for the response. If I have to wait for the response, this war will be over. This is a fast-moving war."

Renewed appeal

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday renewed her call for Filipinos to immediately leave Lebanon.

"Every day the chances of a ceasefire are going down," she said in a media pool interview in Cebu. "Let us not take unnecessary risks. We are spending all our resources that we need to spend. We are exploring all routes for evacuation."

Ms Arroyo said she was talking with all sectors willing to provide support for the evacuation of Filipinos, the latest being an Egyptian shipowner.

She also reiterated her call for the passage of the 2006 supplemental budget in order to have a P1 billion standby fund for Lebanon.

"We are appealing to and reminding our fellow Filipinos in Lebanon not to wait anymore for the situation in that country to reach critical levels before they make moves to evacuate themselves," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing.

"Our objective in Lebanon is to maintain a zero casualty rate. That's why all our preparations to bring home our countrymen are being aggressively pursued," he said.

Bunye made the appeal after Task Force Lebanon officials expressed frustration over the decision of OFWs to stay put rather than go to the evacuation centers and get on the planes chartered by the government.

'Don't blame GMA'

Vice President Noli de Castro defended Ms Arroyo's decision to bring home all 30,000 OFWs in Lebanon from criticism that it was not based on a correct assessment of the situation there.

De Castro, Ms Arroyo's adviser on OFWs and the head of Task Force Lebanon, said the President's decision was based on the recommendation of the task force, which in turn based it on the assessment of the DFA and other Philippine officials involved in evacuation operations.

"You should not blame the President if only a few OFWs want to come home. The President gave the order because she was concerned about their safety in case the war escalates," De Castro said. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana*

'Mystery Lady' is home

By Nikko Dizon

HER HAND AND LEG WERE shaking as she sat on a wheelchair. Her 8-year-old daughter gingerly wiped her face, as if trying to soothe her fears.

Shirley Balajadia, 30, embraced young Abigail as soon as they met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday afternoon, and did not let go. She also held on to her son, John, 5.

Balajadia arrived nearly a month after she left Beirut, Lebanon, and just a week before the war between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants began.

"We knew she left Beirut on July 6. We waited for her at the Naia on July 7, but only her baggage arrived," Balajadia's sister, Annabel, said in an interview.

Balajadia was missing. Fear gripped her family.

Their anxiety grew when the bombs began to fall in Beirut, driving thousands of other Filipino workers to flee Lebanon and return to the Philippines.

"Day in and day out, we would go to the Owwa (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration) office or call to ask if my sister was among those who were repatriated," Annabel said in Filipino.

But each time, there was no Shirley Balajadia on the Owwa's list of returnees.

Unknown to them, Gulf Air's security chief in Manila, Leoncio Nakpil, began looking for them after receiving word from the airline's headquarters in Bahrain that a Filipino female passenger had been off-loaded there.

The passenger supposedly exhibited signs of distress while on a flight from Beirut to Bahrain, and became violent at one point.

The problem was Nakpil had only Balajadia's information on her passport, which included her hometown, Tarlac City, to go by.

He sought the help of Vicky Alboledas, a personal friend living in Bahrain, to help him find Balajadia.

"It turned out that the media in Bahrain had already called her the 'Mystery Lady' because there was not much information about her," Nakpil said.

After nearly two weeks, Nakpil, through ABS-CBN and Balajadia's family, finally made contact.

Bush: New plan to go after ...

From page A1

promise of economic assistance and growth reaches the people," Bush said in a statement released at his ranch in Texas, where he is vacationing.

He noted that the issue was taken up at the G-8 summit in Russia last month.

"Our objective is to defeat high-level public corruption in all its forms and to deny corrupt officials access to the international financial system as a means of defrauding their people and hiding their ill-gotten gains," Bush said.

Briefing reporters here after Bush issued his statement, Undersecretary of State Josette Shiner said a World Bank study showed that an estimated $1 billion is paid every year in bribes.

"Over $400 billion, according to the UN, has been looted from Africa and stashed away in foreign countries," she said.

Shiner also cited a study by Transparency International, a private anticorruption watchdog group, which showed that former President Suharto of Indonesia embezzled between $15 billion and $35 billion from his people during his tenure.

The late President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, she said, was estimated to have taken $5 billion from his people.

"Where is this money coming from?" she asked. "It is coming from the citizens of those countries."

Suharto and Marcos were on friendly terms with the United States during their respective tenures. Shiner said there is "far more of an international commitment and global understanding" on the negative effects of high-level corruption nowadays compared with previous decades.

A State Department fact sheet lists four other former leaders it classified as "kleptocrats": Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Arnoldo Aleman of Nicaragua, Sani Abacha of Nigeria and Alberto Fujimori of Peru.

It said Saddam looted billions of dollars by "skimming workers' profits, taking kickbacks, smuggling and stealing state funds. It added that Saddam "used these ill-gotten gains to maintain despotic power, develop and purchase weapons, and enrich his family, cronies and himself."

Shiner noted that for almost 30 years, it has been illegal for US citizens to bribe foreign officials.

"We will work to ensure and to advocate and to push for every country on earth to have similar action and laws in place," she said. *AP*

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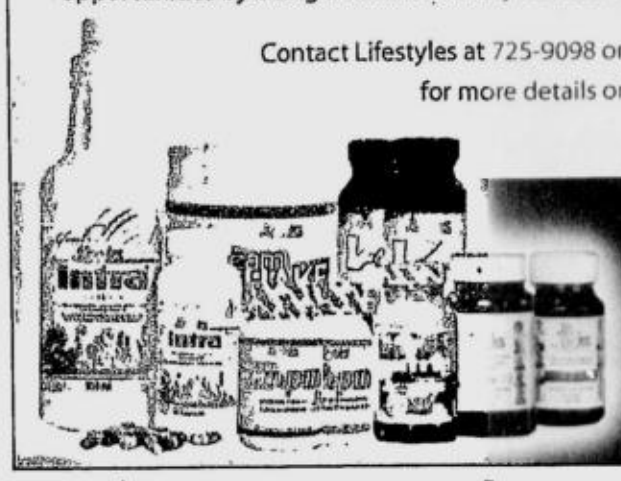

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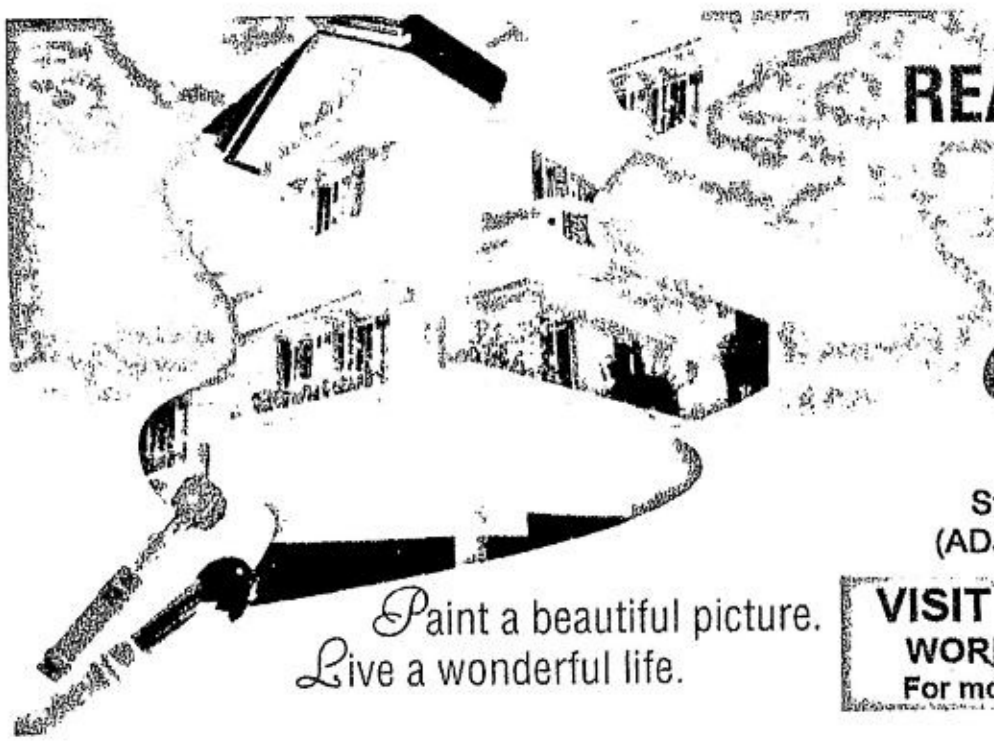

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HOME FROM LEBANON
This latest batch of OFWs from Lebanon fill up forms shortly upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Friday. Looming through the glass window behind them is a 747 Jumbo plane. JESS YUSON

CA junks libel case vs Inquirer

By Armand N. Nocum

THE COURT OF APPEALS, SAYING that the INQUIRER does not publish news stories "just for the heck of it," has upheld the decision of the Department of Justice dismissing the libel case an official of the Baguio Country Club Corporation (BCCC) filed against two top officers and a columnist of the INQUIRER in 2000.

The court said that the pieces written by INQUIRER columnist Victor C. Agustin regarding alleged tax evasion surrounding the sale of a Greenhills, San Juan, property fell within the ambit of "fair commentaries on matters of public interest" and which the Supreme Court had decreed as "jurisprudentially deemed as privilege communication."

"In this case, respondent Agustin as well as his publisher (Isagani Yambot) and editor-in-chief (Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc) could not be said to have written and published the subject articles just for the heck of it," the court said in a decision penned by Associate Justice Bienvenido L. Reyes, chair of the CA's 15th division.

> Justice Bienvenido Reyes: The INQUIRER does not publish news stories 'just for the heck of it.'

The court added: "Rather, they were prompted by the distinct responsibility innate among those who work in the media. Indeed, the respondents' zeal in performing a civic duty should not be mistaken for malice, lest fear of prosecution should mum the lips of truth and public opinion."

Agustin had written column pieces titled "Tax Evasion 101b" and "Roco's Partner" in May 10 and May 12, 2000, respectively, where he reported that the sale of a "Ferdinand Marcos-Dovie Beams love nest in Greenhills" where a "Manila-based Baguio Country Club secretary, Adelina Soneja ... signed herself as Maria vda. De Leon in the first deed of sale" was attended with tax evasion.

Claiming the articles were "libelous and detrimental to the good reputation" of the BCCC, the company's chair Potenciano Ilusorio filed the libel case against Agustin, Yambot, Magsanoc and Ramon K. Ilusorio, who used to be connected with the BCCC.

In his complaint, Pontenciano Ilusorio claimed that the INQUIRER articles "made it appear that it (BCCC) engaged or participated in an alleged tax evasion scheme relative to the acquisition of a highly coveted Greenhills property formerly owned by the late President Ferdinand Marcos."

In his defense, Agustin denied maligning the BCCC, saying that the corporation's name was mentioned simply to describe the relation of BCCC officials to the sale.

On Sept. 18, 2000, the city prosecutor of Baguio dismissed the case for lack of probable cause. Then Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez upheld the decision on April 25, 2002.

A plus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Ex-publisher faces estafa raps; accused of issuing bad checks

Ang says he only acted as guarantor of real buyer

By DJ Yap

FORMER MANILA TIMES PUBLISHER DANTE Ang is facing charges for issuing bad checks as payment for shares in a corporation that publishes the tabloids "Bomba" and "Saksi."

Businessman Dennis Cuyegkeng, in a complaint filed yesterday in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, charged Ang and Vilma Mabilangan with 10 counts of violations of the bouncing checks law and estafa.

Ang, who is now the chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, denied the allegation, saying he only acted as guarantor of the real buyer, Mabilangan.

Cuyegkeng alleged that Ang issued 10 bad checks from October 2003 to November 2004 for the purchase of one million shares of capital stock in Inglewood Corp., publisher and distributor of the tabloids.

According to the complaint, Ang offered to buy the shares from Cuyegkeng for P6.5 million, with P2.5 million paid in cash upon the signing of the deed of sale, and the rest in postdated checks.

Cuyegkeng added that Ang also agreed to pay an additional P9 million as "additional consideration" to settle Inglewood's liabilities with two other companies.

Ang allegedly asked Cuyegkeng to identify Mabilangan as the buyer in the deed of sale.

The sale was formalized on Oct. 15, 2003. After the first few checks cleared, Ang allegedly stopped paying the rest of the checks from February 2004, Cuyegkeng said.

The complainant added that Mabilangan initially denied Ang's role in the purchase of the shares and, in a letter on June 10, 2004, offered to replace Ang's checks. Cuyegkeng refused.

In an affidavit dated Sept. 27, 2004, Mabilangan reportedly said Ang was the real buyer of the shares, Cuyegkeng said.

Ang, in an interview, said the Inglewood shares covered the printing press and ownership rights to the two tabloids. He said he wanted only the equipment, since he was not interested in "sexy publications."

He said it was Mabilangan who bought the tabloids. He only acted as guarantor because Mabilangan did not have enough funds.

Mabilangan later sold the tabloids to another publisher, Joey Venancio, who assumed responsibility for the amortization, Ang said.

The trouble started when Venancio sold the tabloids to one Ceferino Arellano, who paid the bills at first.

According to a letter from Ang's lawyers, Arellano later "continued to publish Bomba and Saksi with affixed qualifiers in the logo," apparently in an attempt to distinguish it from the original publications to avoid paying Inglewood.

Ang alleged Cuyegkeng knew of the arrangement, and claimed the charges were not only false but also "pure harassment."

Ang said Cuyegkeng was supposed to charge only Mabilangan who was the one liable, but since the complainant did not expect to get anything from her, he decided to go after Ang, as well.

The former newspaper publisher also worked an advertising man and public relations consultant, with President Macapagal-Arroyo as one of his clients, among others.

DANTE ANG ERIK ARAZAS

WHAT'S INSIDE

Fake optometrists offering free check ups, 'eyedrops' nabbed /A18

Makati launches sticker project to spot unregistered vehicles /A18

UN comes to Manila via youth ambassadors /A18

NBI officials to GMA: An 'insider' to assistant director's post, please /A18

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that Makati's Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas used to be runways of the first modern commercial airport in the country?

These thoroughfares used to sandwich Nielson Airport's control and passenger center, the Nielson Tower, which now houses the Filipinas Heritage Library.

Inaugurated on July 17, 1937, Nielson Airport was the take-off point of the Philippine Airlines' maiden flight (to Baguio) in 1941. ***Cyril L. Bonabente, INQUIRER Research***

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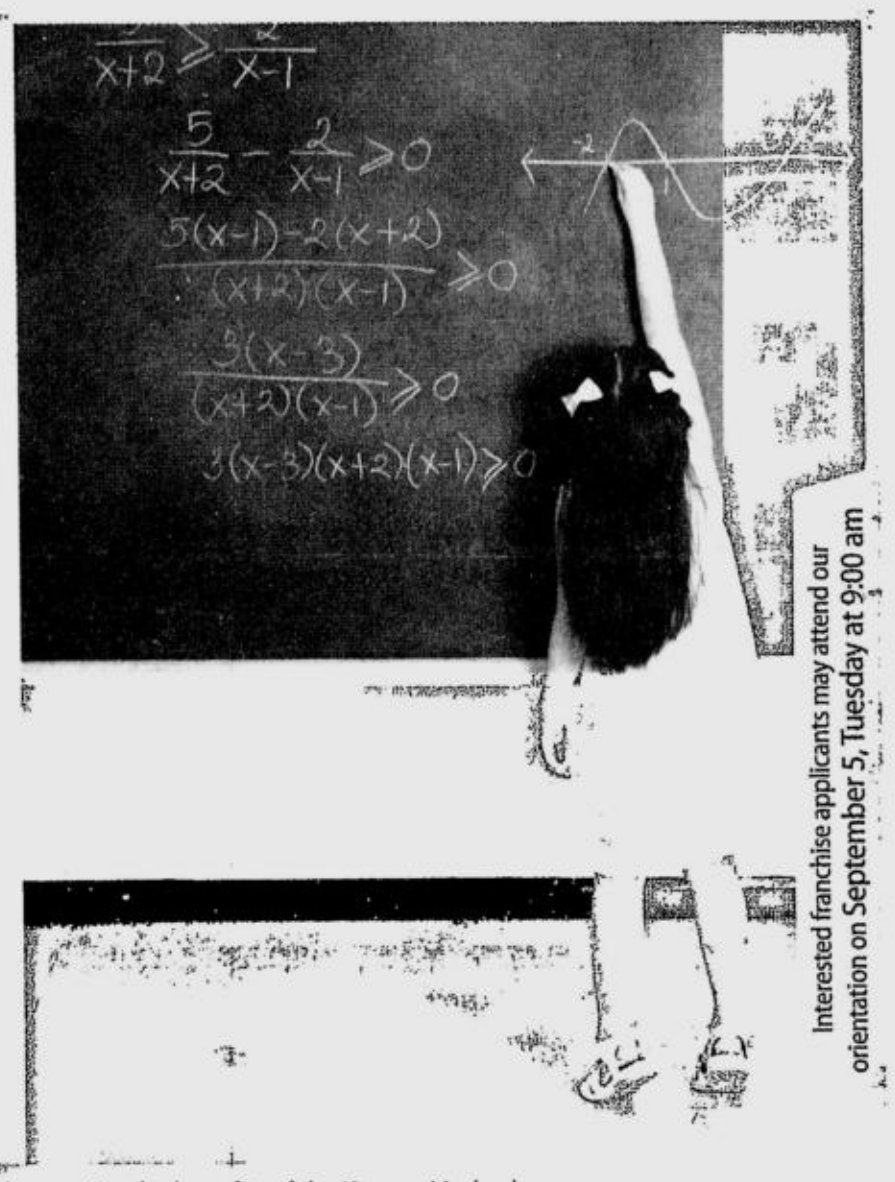

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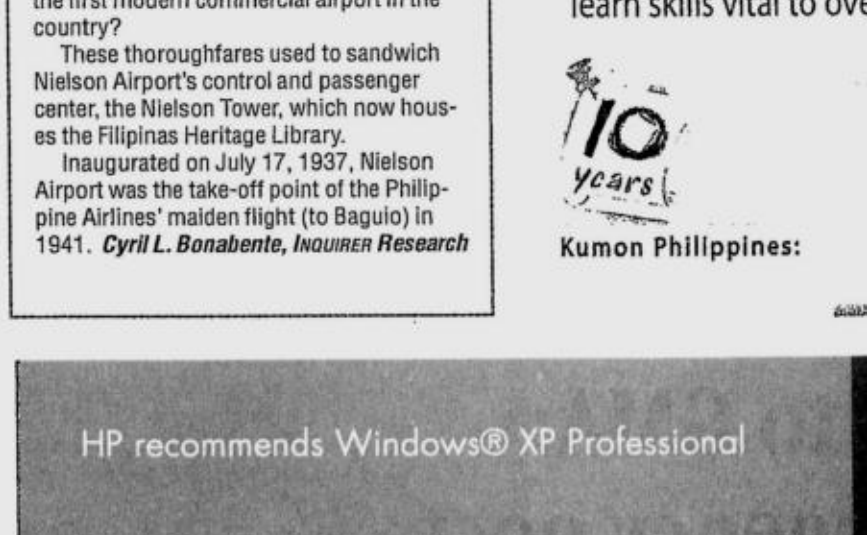

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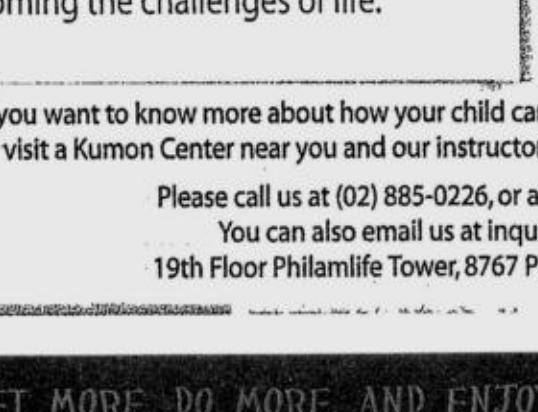

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LAMCO

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EMPTY CHAIRS
Many seats remain empty inside this room where Grade 4 student Rhadmer Rellegue once studied at the New Era University in Quezon City. Rellegue died of meningococcemia last Tuesday. Wary parents still refuse to send their children to school despite pronouncements from the Education and Health departments that it was safe to go back. RAFFY LERMA

'Eye doctors' nabbed in Manila

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SIX PEOPLE CLAIMING TO BE optometrists were arrested last Thursday by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on the complaint of a "patient."

A waitress told the NBI she suffered from extreme eye irritation from the ministrations last Wednesday of five alleged optometrists under a Light Rail Transit station in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Karen Perez, 36, of No. 78 Pag-Ibig St., Tondo, Manila, immediately filed a complaint against five at the NBI office.

NBI National Capital Region (NCR) chief Ruel Lasala said charges of syndicated estafa, illegal practice of medicine, and violation of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) law on the sale of illegal drugs would be filed against suspects Albert Flores, Dolmar Burias, Reyna Yamba, Princess Calderon and Allen Puno in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office.

Special Investigator III Aldrin Mercader said the suspects offered people "free eye checkups" and an "actual demonstration" of their product.

They would put liquid into a victim's eye then swab it with a cotton bud, he added.

The cotton bud was later dipped into a small dish filled with a liquid substance and mosquito larvae would appear in the dish, Mercader added.

"The suspects would then offer the victim P500 worth of eyedrops and 20 tablets to be taken four times a day," the NBI official said.

The suspects charged P50 for the service, and offered customers another P3,000 worth of medicines for one month's use.

The suspects were arrested during an entrapment operation under the LRT Carriedo station, Mercader said. They are now detained at the NBI-NCR detention facility.

"This is a big group operating in many areas in Metro Manila," Lasala said.

During interrogation, the suspects said they got the eyedrops and tablets from a Chinese businessman near the area.

"They told us the tablets were supposed to be taken as vitamins for the eyes while the eyedrops washed away microorganisms and bacteria," Mercader said, but added that the suspects could not produce any documents from BFAD.

The labels on the eyedrop bottles indicated that the solution contained extracts of wild *sampaguita* (flower).

Perez said she was enticed into having her eyes cleansed because of the cheap service fee.

METROBRIEFS

Search still on

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza, who appears to be taking his time in choosing the best police officer for the post, said he is still examining the different qualifications, background and competencies of the candidates. The Philippine National Police has submitted a list of recommended police officers for the post and had given Atienza 10 days to choose his man from the list. The mayor, however, said he didn't want to be pressured in making the decision and that he was disregarding the deadline imposed by the PNP. "I don't agree with the selection process that the PNP is pursuing. They gave me a short list containing three names from which I would have to choose the next MPD director. My choices should not only be limited from that list. I think I should be allowed to choose on my own," he told reporters yesterday. The mayor cited Memorandum Order 77 signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2002 stating that local chief executives of Metro Manila have the power and authority to choose their own chiefs of police. Pursuant to RA No. 6975, as amended, the mayors of the cities and municipalities in the NCR shall choose the chiefs of police, station commanders or district directors, respectively from list of qualified and eligible officers recommended by the district director or the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) director.

Tina G. Santos

Bad day for aides

IT was business as usual for four traffic enforcers in Muntinlupa City until armed men attacked them late Thursday night. Police identified the traffic enforcers as Bayani Pagkalinawan, Raul Orallo, Noel Catabay and Lydia Voces. According to case investigator, P03 Roberto Pareno, the victims were directing traffic operations along the National Road in Barangay Tunasan at around 10:15 p.m. when the suspects appeared and ordered them to drop to the ground at gunpoint. While lying on the street, the armed men took their handheld radios, wristwatches and wallets. The suspects also mauled them and later handcuffed Orallo to a lamppost. Pareno said the armed men also hung around Orallo's neck a placard that read: "*Huwag pamarisan buwaya ng lansangan kapag umulit susunod kamatayan.*" The note was signed "Juan dela Cruz." Catabay, on the other hand, showed investigators bruises on his left face, nape and back allegedly inflicted by the suspects.

Jocelyn R. Uy

EU tilt grand finals

GRAND finalists from the College of St. Benilde, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, the University of Asia and Pacific, and the University of the Philippines will vie for the grand finals of the EU Whiz Mind Encounter, an inter-collegiate quiz for college students in Metro Manila on Aug. 18 at SM Mega Mall, Mandaluyong City. Ambassador Jan de Kok, head of Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines will award grand winners. Noted stage actress and former Ms. Saigon performer Pinky Amador will serve as the quiz master. Jam 88.3, the radio partner of EU Whiz will host the grand finals. The quiz show initiated by the Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines covers areas of interest to the European Union and the European Commission and ranges from EU facts and figures to policies. It is open to colleges and universities offering International Studies, Foreign Service, European Studies or other allied courses. The contest was launched to generate awareness and a deeper understanding of the European Union.

UCPB Savings

UCPB SAVINGS BANK, INC.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Special Stockholders Meeting of the UCPB Savings Bank, Inc. will be held on 23 August 2006, 4:00 p.m. at the Board Room, 15th Floor, UCPB Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The Agenda of the Meeting is as follows:

I. Call to Order
II. Proof of Notice of Meeting
III. Certification of Quorum
IV. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Special Stockholders Meeting held on May 24, 2006
V. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements
VI. Approval of the Amendments to the By-Laws of the Bank
VII. Other Matters
VIII. Adjournment

(Sgd.) **Atty. JOSE A. BARCELON**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–Aug. 12, 2006)

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
San Vicente, Binan, Laguna, Philippines 4024
Trans Co

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Supply of Labor and Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape of Transco-SLOM Offices, Installation & Assets (Package III)
[TRANS-05-JAN-EBDP3-02-PB2]

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, South Luzon Operation & Maintenance (TRANSCO-SLOM)* through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Php10,476,085.92* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *TRANS-05-JAN-EBD-02-PB2P3 (Supply of Labor & Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape of Transco SLOM Offices, Installations & Assets (Package III)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the Supply of Labor and Supervision for Jobs Related to Janitorial Services, Landscape, Plantscape of Transco SLOM Offices.* Delivery of the SERVICES is required *as listed below.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from National Transmission Corporation-South Luzon Operations & Maintenance (SLOM) Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO) and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00A.M. to 5:00 P.M on **August 16-September 08, 2006.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from ***August 16, 2006 to September 08, 2006*** at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php1,000.00.* The method of payment will be *Cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *TRANSCO-SLOM* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***September 13, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at *the address below.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***September 27, 2006 9:30 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form stated in Section II Instructions to Bidders Clause 22 of the Tender Documents in Philippine peso or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on ***September 27, 2006 / 9:30 A. M.*** at the *OAVP Conference Room B same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, SLOM
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera, BAC Chairman
Regional Contracts Management Office
San Vicente, Binan, Laguna.
Tel. No. (02) 9814576 local 4007, 4094, 4053
Website : www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **RUBEN G. CASTUERA**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI--Aug. 12 & 21, 2006)

UN comes to Manila via youth envoys

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THIS NOVEMBER, THE UNITED Nations is coming to Manila. Well, at least a model of it.

The country's brightest youth would gather anew for the annual Model United Nations Assembly (Muna) of the Rotary Club of Makati Jose P. Rizal (RCMJPR), an event that brings together international schools and the nation's best private and state universities for a drill on parliamentary procedure.

"This is a simulation of what the United Nations does, where students get to show their prowess in debating and the parliamentary process, because they have to come up with resolutions on global issues and vote on them," said Leticia Chiok, former club president and chair of this year's Muna.

Now on its 9th year, the Muna, one of the major projects of the all-woman club, will be held on Nov. 11 and 12 at the World Health Organization (WHO) office on UN Avenue corner Taft Avenue in Manila.

"We provide an avenue for students to role play as ambassadors of different countries and discuss international concerns," Chiok told the INQUIRER during the event's launch on Tuesday.

Rotary's Muna is among the few UN simulations in the Philippines that is open to any school capable of sending their delegations, may it be private or public, the club said.

Schools like International School Manila and Brent International School Manila have long been holding UN simulations within campus, said Chiok.

These institutions have been vital partners in organizing the Muna since the Rotary started holding its own in 1997, as part of the civic organization's continuing effort "to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise."

Through Muna, the Rotary hopes to enable delegates to "investigate multilateral issues from a national perspective; articulate stand on current issues; hone skills in argumentation and debate; engage in consensus building; learn and respect other views; and develop concern for humanity."

Last year Muna attracted 140 participants, among them eight from Singapore.

"There are over 100 model UN conferences around the world and it is open to high school seniors, college students and young professionals who are socially and politically inclined," said Bing Villania, club president.

Taking role-playing to a whole new level, Muna would have students assume the roles of diplomats representing the UN's 192 member states. They have to talk and look the part of their represented nations as they mimic actual proceedings of the UN's meetings such as the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, following protocol to the letter.

Simulating a day in the UN's life would require delegates to learn how the UN works and know and understand the assembly's procedure.

Participants must also learn the culture, government structure, political affairs and diplomatic ties of the countries they represent vis-à-vis that of other nations.

To help them prepare, the club has organized a daylong training program on Aug. 26. Chiok said the United States Embassy has agreed to host the training, where participants could "enhance their understanding of the diplomatic protocol at the United Nations."

The club hopes to encourage more participants this year. RCMJPR can be reached through its secretariat at 8961682 and 8969993.

Spotting jeeps with franchise via sticker

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IN THE TRAFFIC-HEAVY FINANcial center, the modest sticker has become the weapon of choice against jeepneys which ply its streets with no franchise papers.

As part of the city's continuing crackdown on illegal public transport in the city, the Makati Department of Public Services (DPS) has launched the Route Sticker Project, a program that would tag properly documented jeepneys with decals as proof of legal operation in Makati.

"It will help us make sure that jeepneys with no franchise will stay out of Makati's streets. It will, therefore, help ease traffic flow in the city," said DPS chief Hermenegildo San Miguel.

The project was implemented last week after the DPS signed a memorandum of agreement with Universal Insurance Transport Accident Agency Solutions, Inc. (Unitrans), a private insurance firm, and the Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Alliance Inc., the city's largest organization in the public transport sector.

Under the MOA, Unitrans would provide stickers to jeepneys known to have the required franchise to operate in Makati's 32 jeepney routes. The stickers would be placed on either sides of a jeepney's body and on its windshield.

Unitrans is among the firms providing accident insurance to MJODA members, numbering around 5,200 jeepneys and roughly 12,000 drivers and operators, said Orlando Marquez, association president.

"It is good for us because only those with authorized lines to operate in Makati will be given stickers so the illegal ones could be easily spotted," Marquez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He estimated that some 2,000 private vehicles are engaged transporting commuters around Makati at a given time.

Besides the DPS, the Makati Traffic Enforcement Unit would also enforce the sticker campaign. Those caught illegally transporting commuters in the city may face fines of P1,500 and would risk the confiscation of their driver's license.

NBI execs appeal to GMA: Name insider to agency post

By Margaux C. Ortiz

OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint an insider as the next assistant director of the institution, a few days after acting head Nestor Mantaring was officially named NBI chief.

In a letter to Ms Arroyo, 26 NBI officials implored that "an insider who similarly rose from the ranks like Mantaring be privileged to be the next assistant head of the bureau.

"We make this humble request in view of reports that someone from outside the NBI may soon be appointed in the aforementioned capacity as assistant director or deputy director," the officials, led by Acting Assistant Director Alejandro Tenerife, said in the letter.

The officials also cited a provision from the NBI Manual of Operations stating that in selecting an assistant director, a candidate for the said position must be a lawyer.

"Apart from being presidential appointees, high-rank appointees from the NBI director, assistant director, deputy directors down to the regional directors are career service positions," the NBI chiefs said.

News reports in the past indicated that former Manila Police District (MPD) director Pedro Bulaong could be appointed as Mantaring's deputy.

NBI Special Task Force (STF) chief Reynaldo Esmeralda, however, said they were thankful for Mantaring's appointment as the bureau's director, adding that the President's decision had boosted the institution's morale.

"Line agents will now work harder so they would have the chance of leading the bureau one day," Esmeralda said.

Mantaring was named by Malacañang as acting chief last May. He had served as the agency's officer in charge following the death of former NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco in December last year.

NBI Deputy Director for Comptroller Services Edmund Arugay, however, disclosed that he did not sign the letter because of "an alleged insertion asking the President to consider an insider as the bureau's next deputy chief."

"They are trying to limit the prerogative of the President (with that insertion)," Arugay said.

The newly-appointed NBI director became controversial when some NBI agents led by Arugay, then Deputy Director for Intelligence Services, threatened to withdraw their support for him last June for "poor performance and a dictatorial style of administration."

Mantaring said the protest could have stemmed from a special order he issued regarding the reassignment of a regional director and four deputy directors, including Arugay.

Arugay's group later reconciled with Mantaring. The NBI "fight" apparently irked Malacañang who told the officials not to wash their dirty linen in public.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Airliner bombings were 'days away'

LONDON—SUSPECTED BRITISH SUICIDE BOMBERS were just days away from simultaneous attacks on trans-Atlantic airliners when officials said they foiled what one senior police commander called "mass murder on an unimaginable scale."

British police arrested 24 people over a plot to smuggle bombs on to aircraft disguised as drinks, and new tough security measures for air travel remained in place on Friday. Airports were jammed on Thursday and scores of flights were cancelled.

"(The bombers) were a couple of days from a test, and a few days from doing it," said a US intelligence official, declining to be named.

"The plan was to have multiple suicide bombings on aircraft, essentially at the same time," said US Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, adding al-Qaeda might have been involved but that it was too early to draw conclusions.

US President George W. Bush said the plan was a stark reminder his country was at "war with Islamic fascists."

Pakistan said it played a role in thwarting the suspected plot. A senior government official said Pakistan arrested two Britons of Pakistani descent last week as part of a coordinated operation. No other details were immediately available.

The suspected plot raised the specter of strikes to rival the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States that killed about 3,000 people and came 13 months after four British Muslim suicide bombers killed 52 people on London's transport network.

US officials said as many as 10 planes might have been struck. Trans-Atlantic jumbo jet flights usually carry more than 300 people, suggesting a death toll in the thousands.

"We are confident we have disrupted a plan by terrorists to cause untold death and destruction," said the London police force's Deputy Commissioner Paul Stephenson. "Put simply, this was intended to be mass murder on an unimaginable scale."

British Home Secretary (interior minister) John Reid said police were confident all the main figures had been caught but the US TV network ABC quoted unnamed US officials as saying five suspects were still on the loose.

British police gave no details of the people they had arrested, but the US Homeland Security department said all were British citizens. Raids were carried out in the capital London, southeast England and Britain's second city Birmingham.

Last month, al-Qaida called on Muslims to fight those backing Israel's strikes on Lebanon and warned of attacks unless US and British forces pulled out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

British security sources said they had been watching the suspects for eight months.

Police are expected to ask a judge on Friday for permission to hold the suspects for up to 28 days without charge, under new antiterrorism powers that came into force last month. They must seek permission within 48 hours of the arrests.

British media quoted Britain's central bank as saying it had frozen the assets of 19 of the suspects.

News of the suspected plot affected financial markets.

Shares in European airlines fell. The pound fell against the dollar and the euro. Oil fell to below $76 a barrel on fears the security threat might slow growth worldwide and cut oil demand.

The new tough security measures imposed by Britain and the United States caused chaos and delays at airports.

British Airways said it expected to cancel about 40 percent of its short-haul and 25 percent of its long-haul flights from London's Heathrow airport on Friday. *Reuters*

A BOBBY guards one of the raided houses in northeast London Aug. 10. AFP

WOMEN mourn after a rocket hit a house in the northern Israeli town of Deir al-Assad. REUTERS

Israeli bombs kill 11 in Lebanon

BEIRUT—ISRAELI AIR RAIDS KILLED 11 people in north Lebanon on Friday amid more wrangling at the United Nations over a draft resolution to end the month-old war between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.

The strikes on a bridge near the northern border with Syria also wounded 18 people, hospital officials said. Beirut awoke to a dozen thunderous raids on Shiite Muslim suburbs before dawn.

There was no immediate word on casualties in those raids.

Washington's UN Ambassador John Bolton, said on Thursday the Security Council would work into the night to seek agreement on a text that the United States and France have tried to draft.

"I have not at all given up on the prospect that we might yet vote (on Friday)," Bolton told reporters.

But no text has been introduced to the 15-member council because Lebanon has demanded changes that Israel must also approve. Some envoys say a resolution could be adopted on Saturday.

Russia proposed a resolution calling for a 72-hour truce to alleviate a "catastrophic" humanitarian crisis as a stop-gap should the US-French draft resolution be delayed further.

"Unfortunately, we at this point came to the conclusion that we do not have an immediate prospect of this resolution being accepted," said Moscow's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin.

Israel rejected the Russian proposal, saying it would help Hezbollah "regroup and recover."

The war, triggered after Hezbollah seized two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid on July 12, has killed at least 1,018 people in Lebanon. At least 122 Israelis have been killed.

The Israeli casualties and constant Hezbollah rocket attacks have eroded public support in Israel for Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Defense Minister Amir Peretz, an opinion poll showed.

The main sticking point at the United Nations has been the timing of Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon and the arrival of an international force and the Lebanese army in the area.

France, which might lead the international force, and the United States appear to have reached agreement but it has been hard to craft a text Israel, Lebanon and Hezbollah can accept.

Lebanon wants an immediate ceasefire and a swift Israeli withdrawal. Israel says it will fight on until foreign troops and the Lebanese army move in—a stance backed by Washington, which fears a security vacuum that could let Hezbollah regroup.

Diplomats said US and Israeli officials were discussing proposals for staged reductions in Israeli military operations as Lebanese and foreign troops were deployed in south Lebanon. *Reuters*

Israel asks US to speed up delivery of cluster munitions

WASHINGTON—ISRAEL HAS asked the Bush administration to speed delivery of short-range antipersonnel rockets armed with cluster munitions, which it could use to strike Hezbollah missile sites in Lebanon, two American officials said Thursday.

The request for M-26 artillery rockets, which are fired in barrages and carry hundreds of grenade-like bomblets that scatter and explode over a broad area, is likely to be approved shortly, along with other arms, a senior official said.

But some state department officials have sought to delay the approval because of concerns over the likelihood of civilian casualties, and the diplomatic repercussions. The rockets, while they would be very effective against hidden missile launchers, officials say, are fired by the dozen and could be expected to cause civilian casualties if used against targets in populated areas.

Israel is asking for the rockets now because it has been unable to suppress Hezbollah's Katyusha rocket attacks in the month-old conflict by using bombs dropped from aircraft and other types of artillery, the officials said.

The United States had approved the sale of M-26s to Israel some time ago, but the weapons had not yet been delivered when the crisis in Lebanon erupted. If the shipment is approved, Israel may be told that it must be especially careful about firing the rockets into populated areas, the senior official said.

Israel has long told American officials that it wanted M-26 rockets for use against conventional armies in case Israel was invaded, one of the American officials said. But after being pressed in recent days on what they intended to use the weapons for, Israeli officials disclosed that they planned to use them against rocket sites in Lebanon. It was this prospect that raised the intense concerns over civilian casualties. *NYT*

PCs, 25 years old, still changing world

SAN FRANCISCO — PERSONAL computers have transformed society in a mere 25 years and they are just getting warmed up.

In the short time since IBM launched its pioneering PC on Aug. 12, 1981, teenagers have gone from hiding secrets in locked diaries to baring all on social networking websites such as Facebook and MySpace.

Rather than inking letters to faraway pals, people send instant messages while watching friends on Web cameras.

Computerized mobile telephones banished worry about missing calls or finding friends in crowds.

Long-distance toll calls have yielded to free chat via computers linked by the Internet.

People can search online for anything from love to medical advice or bargain airfares.

Computers have enabled the masses to make videos, books, music or films at home for global consumption. Apple Computer's iPod music and video players have engendered a style of do-it-yourself radio called "podcasting."

Personal computers have given the world telecommuting, video games and sedentary lifestyles blamed for expanding waistlines.

Humanity's accumulated knowledge has been migrating to the Internet for anyone to find while computers have become smaller, faster and more versatile.

"It has made a stunning difference in people's lives," Electronic Frontier Foundation legal director Cindy Cohn told AFP. "And we are still in the early stages of this stuff.

"We will see a big leap when wireless is ubiquitous. Things you and I couldn't dream of."

The unprecedented access to people and information provided by computers has changed society's privacy landscape, said Cohn, whose nonprofit legal group champions Internet users' rights.

Store discount cards and rewards programs such as those offered by airlines or hotels use computers to amass data about shopping and travel preferences.

Credit cards, banks and telephone companies record user activities.

Internet firms that provide free services such as online searches, maps, and e-mail save information typed in by users and sort it by unique identification numbers in the machines.

"With so much of our lives digital, the ability of the government and other people to know what we are doing, reconstruct our lives and basically stalk us online has grown," Cohn said.

The effects of computers on society go far deeper than online lifestyles, according to Fred Turner, a Stanford University assistant professor who specializes in the intersection of media and cultural history. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Suicide bomber kills 35 in Iraq

NAJAF, Iraq—A suicide bomber killed at least 35 people and wounded more than 120 on Thursday near one of Shiite Islam's holiest sites, the Imam Ali shrine in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf. An Iraqi Sunni insurgent group said it had carried out the attack, the bloodiest since July 18, when 59 people were killed by a suicide bomb in nearby Kufa. That bombing was claimed by al-Qaida, which has attacked Shiites in a bid to inflame sectarian passions and trigger full-scale civil war. Thursday's bomb in Najaf appeared to have the same objective. Hospital sources said the Najaf bomber blew himself up at a police commando checkpoint on his way to the Imam Ali shrine. The defense ministry said 35 were killed and 122 injured. *Reuters*

Indian cities may be attacked, US warns

NEW DELHI—Two Indian cities may be targeted for attack by al-Qaida militants ahead of next week's Independence Day celebrations, the US Embassy in New Delhi warned Friday. There may be attacks by al-Qaida in "New Delhi and Mumbai in the days leading to the Independence Day," embassy spokesperson David Kennedy told CNN-IBN news channel. Kennedy said the information was based on intelligence inputs gathered along with the Indian government. Serial train bombings in Mumbai on July 11 blamed by the government on Islamic militant groups killed 183 people and injured almost 900. *AFP*

No link between immigration, job rates

IN THE FURIOUS debate over immigration, advocates of reducing the inflow have argued that the millions of foreigners who came to the United States in the last decade took jobs from American workers. But a study released Thursday by the Pew Hispanic Center found there was no evidence to support that claim for the country as a whole. The study, based on census data, found that 14 states with high immigration rates after 1990, including Texas, Nevada and Georgia, also had higher than average employment rates for American-born workers. Those states accounted for 24 percent of all American workers. But in eight states that had big increases in immigrants in the same period, among them Arizona and Tennessee, employment rates for American workers were below average. Those states were home to 15 percent of American workers. The study concluded there was no consistent nationwide link between surging immigration growth and declines in employment for Americans. *NYT*

Super typhoon kills 83 in China

XIAPU, China—The strongest typhoon to strike China for half a century killed at least 83 people, dozens of them villagers who had taken shelter in a concrete house that collapsed. Typhoon "Saomai" tore into Cangnan county in the eastern province of Zhejiang on Thursday after authorities moved than 1 million people in the densely populated commercial province to safety, Xinhua said. But at least 41 villagers, including eight children, were killed when a house collapsed in the town of Jinxiang, only an hour's drive from where the typhoon made landfall, Xinhua news agency and a local official said. *Reuters*

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials
PB060728-LE0108/PR NO. SPL-06-000026735

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO), through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board, intends to apply the sum of ***PhP 7,650,805.92*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***PB060728-LE0108/PR NO. SPL-06-000026735, Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Award shall be on a lot basis.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for ***Supply and Delivery of Transmission Line Materials***. Delivery of the GOODS is required ***within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of the approved Purchase Order/Contract***. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from ***August 07, 2006 to August 25, 2006*** from ***9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*** and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Php 1,000.00***. The method of payment will be ***CASH***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 14, 2006/10:00 a.m.*** at the same address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***August 28, 2006/2:00 p.m.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	*One percent (1%) or Php 76,508.06*
2. Bank guarantee	*One and a half percent (1½%) or Php 114,762.09*
3. Surety bond	*Two and a half percent (2½%) or Php 191,270.15*
4. Foreign government guarantee	*One Hundred percent (100%) or Php 7,650,805.92*

7. Bid opening shall be on ***August 28, 2006/2:00 p.m.*** at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2205 / (632) 9812241
Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 5 & 12, 2006)

Globe Kantabataan Opens Up Music Industry to Young Composer-Musician

Before the month of May kicked in, they were just students going through the challenges of term papers, exams and graded recitations. However, with an extraordinary gift and love of music, members of student bands Ichthus (Laguna), JYLZ (Metro Manila), 7th Skool (Nueva Ecija), DROP d (Bohol), and Footprint (Albay) found that they had the chance to show their talent beyond school functions, friends' parties or family gatherings. In the midst of university life, the break that they were looking for finally came.

Globe Kantabataan, the first youth anthem competition had hit the country. Covering major geographical areas (North Luzon, South Luzon, GMA, Visayas and Mindanao), Globe Kantabataan screened more than a hundred hopefuls to determine which student band could get their shot at a professional musical career through their original songs interpreting "Saya ng Buhay Estudyante," the theme for the country's biggest and only youth song festival.

The changes begin

After all the contestants were taken to their official residence in Metro Manila, activities aimed at improving their skills and honing their competitive edge in the music industry commenced.

The semifinalists got the once-in-a-lifetime chance to learn from highly-respected musicians such as "Ang Banda ng Bayan" Rivermaya, Alexander and Mike Villegas.

Rivermaya is the country's most awarded band whose numerous accolades include the MTV Asia Awards Philippines' Favorite Artist 2005 and 2006 as well as three-time wins as Favorite Group at the MTV Pilipinas Awards.

Dubbed "Ang Banda ng Bayan" by its fans across the country, Rivermaya is responsible for such chartbusting hymns as "Liwanag sa Dilim," "Posible," "Umaaraw, Umuulan," and the highly recognized "You'll Be Safe Here," which won Favorite Music Video and Favorite Media Soundtrack in the 1st Myx Music Awards 2006 as well as Best Song Written for Movie/TV/Stageplay at the 19th Awit Awards 2006.

Meanwhile, Alexander, a two-time NU107 Rock awardee and sister to famed ethno-rock musician Joey Ayala, is a music icon in her own right and is known for her versatility, being a multi-instrumentalist. Villegas (former member of the band Rizal Underground and a Metropop Grand Prize winner in 2003) is a veteran song writer, composer and producer.

"These young musicians have the fire, the desire and the right attitude to succeed. And they also have a mature sense of musicality. They do not only sing and play their instruments well, they also write (music) well. It is not easy to write a song with an existing theme and required lines, but they came up with good songs," says Villegas. He continues, "There's one thing that they should know to stay long in the industry. They should stick to their music – no matter the changes. The bands that stayed long in the industry are those who stuck to their music."

Rico Blanco, frontman of Rivermaya agrees. According to him, "They should focus on their music instead of trying to second guess the market. When you're honest to your craft, your rewards will be those that have more substance."

The semifinalist bands were also given a taste of the musician's life and a sneak peek at the busy world of the music industry as their jam-packed schedules took them from photo shoots, radio guestings to studio recordings.

"This is really a once in a lifetime experience. All the activities made us realize that there's still so much to learn," says Gideon Reyes, lead vocalist of 7th Skool from Cabanatuan.

"We are truly privileged to learn from these respected people," relates Footprint's Jay Mark Garay, "We just wanted our music to be heard, but so many blessings came."

Down to five

From 10 semifinalist bands, judges Buddy Zabala (former bassist of Eraserheads and now The Dawn); Tots Tolentino, (admired flutist and saxophonist); and Russell Molina (Deputy Executive Creative Director of McCann Erickson Philippines and Carlos Palanca awardee) chose the songs and bands who will proceed to the grand finals – "Sayaskwela" by **Ichthus**, whose members include Carizza Jasmine Panaligan on vocals, McKevin Castillo on drums, Jeryal Manansala on keyboards, Audrey Panaligan on bass guitar and Andrew Panaligan on lead guitar; and "Iba Tayo" by **JYLZ** consisting of vocalist Jenifer Sario, guitarist Zigredo Elava, bass guitarist Luis Roño, and drummer Antonio Sadol. Completing the final five are "Skool Bus" by **7th Skool** with vocalist Gideon Reyes, guitarists Marlon Reyes and Stanley Quinez, bassist Allan Teneza, and drummer Henley Miranda; "Bagong Pananaw" by **Drop d** consisting of Japhet Torredes on vocals, Mark Cornelio on drums, and Karl Radaza, Chris Cornelio and Salvador Rufiño on guitars; and "Lakas Kabataan" by **Footprint** whose musicality comes from the talents of Jay Mark Garay on vocals and rhythm guitar, Paul Lluz on bass guitar, Vincent Tolosa on lead guitar, and Stephen Belen on drums.

To prepare them for their final show of vocal power and stage presence, they were given a style makeover by Levi's. Levi's specialists eliminated the regular man-on-the-street look that defined the final five's fashion and improved their style aptitude. The result: a look that communicates the band's unique personality and confidence.

With a fashion style that now complements their talents and ideals, Ichthus, JYLZ, 7th Skool, DROP d, and Footprint talked about their music, band, plans and aspirations via an appearance in the morning show, Breakfast.

After the guesting at Breakfast, the bands then went on and spent the afternoon with Rivermaya.

The most acclaimed local musical group to date, Rivermaya exhibits versatility, discipline, and staying power – qualities that all bands need to acquire recognition in the local music scene.

Rivermaya shares their thoughts on how it feels to mentor young musicians. Japs Sergio, bassist of the band says, "It is always a great experience to share some advice with our fellow musicians."

The final five soaked in the tips shared with them by Rivermaya. The tips ranged from basic songwriting and showmanship during stage performances, to recognizing each band member's contribution to the group.

One of the common concerns of the different bands was stage performance, to this Blanco replies, "Setting up the mood (on the stage) is up to you. If you are confident, the people will feel it and they will have fun with you."

To this guitarist Mike Elgar adds, "Practice. That's what you really do to ensure that every stage performance is a success."

The highlight of the workshop, however, was the final five's jamming session with the members of the country's most admired band.

Ichthus feels honored to be given the opportunity to learn from Rivermaya and play with them as well. Lead vocalist, Carizza Panaligan says, "Not all new bands get the chance to get this close to Rivermaya. This is really an experience of a lifetime."

"We noticed your performances featured either your original compositions or original Filipino songs. We thank you so much for showing your support to Filipino music," said Rivermaya drummer, Mark Escueta, to the final five bands.

Balancing act

The grand winner of the Globe Kantabataan competition will win P100,000. Another P100,000 will be given to their school/s. They will also star in their own video which will be shown on the MTV channel. TV guestings and photo shoots will definitely be part of the package.

The question now is: Is there a way to balance their studies and their new found popularity?

Bohol contender DROP d was quick to say, "It is all a matter of time management." JYLZ from NCR agrees saying, "You can do both at the same time. Go to school from Monday to Saturday then focus on your music on Sunday. It is possible."

It's true that the young people of today know how to have fun. But it is also important to note that they do know what their priorities are.

As 7th Skool aptly puts it, "Our name is actually 7th Day of School. It is because we are academic students from Monday to Saturday and on the 7th day we are music students. We do not let our love for music interfere with our studies. But we create a balance."

You can help propel your favorite band to the top spot by voting for them. Voting started on August 8, 2006 and will end on August 25. Stay tuned for the finals to be featured on ASAP, August 27, 2006.

To listen to the song finalists, for full details, Voting and Raffle component of Globe Kantabataan, log-on to www.kantabataan.com.ph or text KANTA to 2346 for FREE.

"Gusto namin forever solid sa'min ang sambayanan!"

Globe kantabataan

"Skool Bus" by 7th Skool (Cabanatuan) Band Code: SKOOL
Gideon, Marlon, Allan, Henley, Stanley

"Bagong Pananaw" by Drop d (Tagbilaran) Band Code: DROP
Japhet, Karl, Christopher, Salvador, Mark

"Lakas Kabataan" by Footprint (Legazpi) Band Code: FOOT
Jan Mark, Paul, Vincent, Stephen

"Sayaskwela" by Ichthus (Calamba) Band Code: ICHTHUS
Andrei, Kevin, CJ, Jeryal, Andrew

"Iba Tayo" by JYLZ (Taguig) Band Code: JYLZ
Zigfred, Jen, Luis, Antonio

Posible 'yan mga dude, dahil voting season na ng Globe Kantabataan!

From the 5 FINALISTS, iboto na ang feel mong bagong kanta ng kabataan this school year!

SEND <BAND CODE> to 2346

Mag-text na ng mag-text at ipakita ang lakas ng bagong kabataan sa biggest and only Youth Song Festival sa Pilipinas!

Itodo mo na ang suporta sa trip mong song & band with additional points ng Kantabataan downloads...

RINGTONE	6 VOTE POINTS	LOGO	6 VOTE POINTS
POLYTONE	8 VOTE POINTS	TEXT CARDS	6 VOTE POINTS
TRUETONE	12 VOTE POINTS	WALLPAPER	8 VOTE POINTS

For 1-point votes, send VOTE <space> <BAND CODE> to 2346.

At eto pa, each download is equal to electronic raffle entries for a chance to win Kantabataan giveaways...

Period Covered	Draw Date	Awarding Date	Prizes
Week 1 (August 8-13)	August 15	August 22	2 winners Sony Ericsson Cellphones, 3 winners of 5,000 G-Cash
Week 2 (August 14-20)	August 22	August 29	2 winners Sony Ericsson Cellphones, 3 winners of 5,000 G-Cash
Week 3 (August 21-25)	August 29	September 5	2 winners Sony Ericsson Cellphones, 3 winners of 5,000 G-Cash
Grand Draw (August 7-25)	August 29	September 5	2 winners Sony Ericsson Cellphones 5 winners of 10,000 G-Cash each, Grand Prize – 50,000 G-Cash

Kaya get to know the band and their songs!
Band profiles and Kantabataan updates available via the official G-Blog site www.kantabataan.com.ph

LEVI'S MTV MUSIC TELEVISION Sony Ericsson

kabataan, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Promo until August 25, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1336, S. 2006

SPORTS

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Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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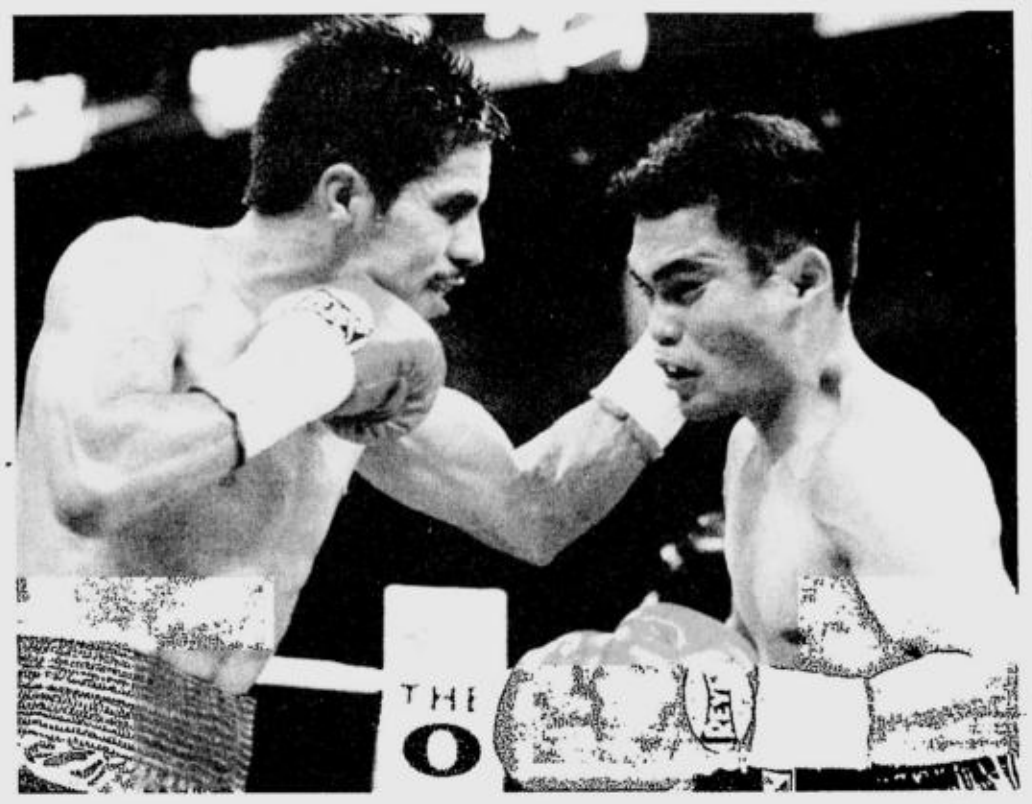


DEFENSELESS Brian Viloria (right) leaves himself open for a right straight from Omar Nino Romero of Mexico during their WBC light flyweight title match in Las Vegas. AP

Fil-Hawaiian falls in one-sided loss to Mexico's Romero; Gabi notches sensational knockout

BRIAN VILORIA FOUGHT HIS worst bout in an erstwhile unbeaten career to yield his World Boxing Council (WBC) light flyweight crown by unanimous decision to underdog Omar Nino Romero of Mexico yesterday at the New Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

It was a bitter, one-sided defeat and nobody could be more stunned and disappointed than the 25-year-old Viloria, who suffered his first loss in 20 pro fights as he failed miserably in the second defense of the 108-lb. crown he captured in sensational fashion last year.

"I'm in shock right now," Viloria admitted to ESPN after the bout. "I don't know what to do right now. It's just a shock."

Romero, fighting beyond 10 rounds for the first time in his career, put on a virtual boxing clinic, outboxing and outhustling Viloria en route to a sparkling 118-110, 117-111, 117-112 unanimous decision verdict.

Romero well prepared

"I have been looking for this title for so long," said the 30-year-old Romero, who dedicated the triumph to his son Omar Junior, born just 15 days earlier. "I was so well prepared. I knew if I fought well I could do it. I was just determined to win. I knew I was going to do it."

Romero, according to Compubox, outworked Viloria and landed the bigger volume of punches, 245-of-778. The Fil-Hawaiian Viloria (19-1) was deficient as he could only land 113-of-398 blows.

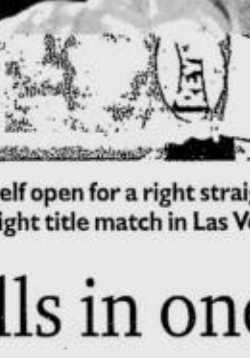
About the only consolation yesterday for Filipinos was Diosdado Gabi's impressive first-round demolition of three-time world champion Mauricio Pastrana.

Gabi knocked down Pastrana twice and the bout was halted after only 96 seconds from the first bell.

Stinging jabs

Viloria's trouble started when he failed to solve Romero's stinging jabs starting the second round.

"I knew if he was going to beat me, he was going to have to hit me with counters and, as long as I kept my jab out there, he wasn't going to counter anything," Romero said, referring to a pricking left jab that had Viloria eating leather all night.



GABI: Impressive

Viloria, who is based in Waipahu, Hawaii, was defending his title for the second time since picking it up easily over Eric Ortiz in September 2005.

He defended it with a hard-earned unanimous decision win against former strawweight champion Jose Antonio Aguirre in February.

"I fought a stupid fight tonight," Viloria said. "I needed to throw my combinations like I was supposed to. I needed to be a lot more aggressive.

"I was disappointed in my performance. I just fought a really dumb fight and he fought my fight. I just had a bad night."

The win was Romero's 24th, with 10 knockouts, against two losses and one draw.

"I came prepared for this fight," Viloria said. "Omar fought a smart fight. He stayed on his toes. He didn't engage with me. I waited too late."

Viloria said he will try to seek an immediate rematch with Romero, as his handlers own the option to Nino Romero's new title.

Kameda fight dims

But the loss dims the chances for a showdown fight against undefeated World Boxing Association champion Koki Kameda of Japan. Viloria said talks about a fight with Kameda was not a distraction to him for facing Romero.

Gabi's record improved to 27-3-1 with 19 KOs, while Pastrana dropped to 32-7-2 (20 KOs).

The win also redeemed Gabi from his heart-breaking loss to IBF flyweight champ Vic Darchinyan last March. *With reports from AFP, Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

● ANATOMY OF DEFEAT: Veteran boxing analyst and INQUIRER contributor Hermie Rivera will analyze Viloria's defeat in today's edition of Game Zone, a weekly sports show on ANC 27, hosted by Boom Gonzales, at 6 p.m.

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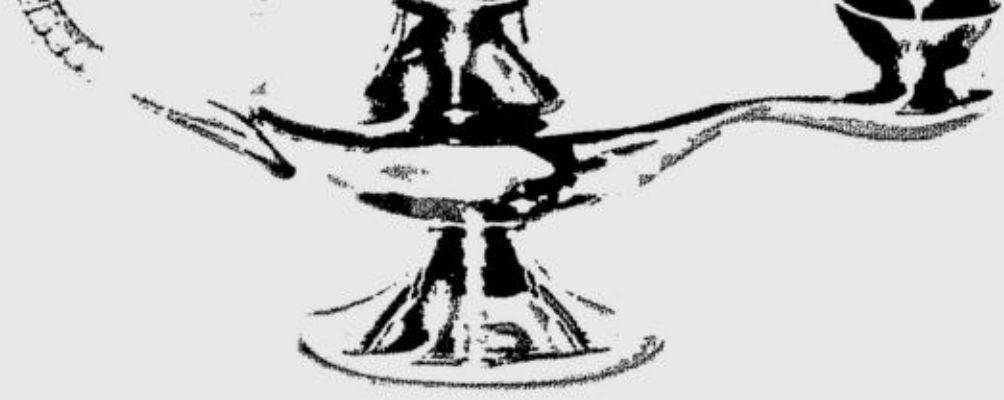

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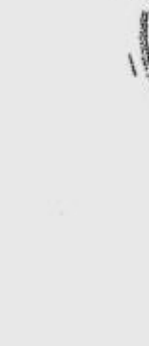

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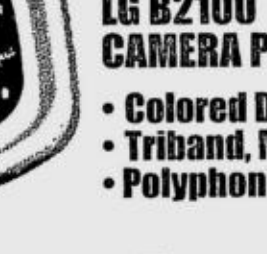

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Negros Or., NCR booters forge title duel

By Cedelf P. Tupas
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—TWO GOALS IN EACH HALF AND a resolute defense yesterday ensured Negros Oriental FA's first finals appearance in the PFF-National Women's Open at the slippery Silliman University pitch here.

Getting goals from four different players, the hosts shut out Cebu, 4-0, to claim the first championship slot.

Negros Oriental collides with National Capital Region in the finals at 2:30 p.m. today.

The NCR booters won over the Davaoeñas on penalties, 3-1, after regulation and extra time ended at 1-1.

Strikers Rodelyn Calbog and Ruthel Tolentino, defender Jissey Estosota and Jessica Moldez found the back of the net on a day when poor field condition hampered the attacking form of both teams.

GAMES TODAY (*Foundation University pitch*)
10 a.m.—Cebu vs Davao
Silliman University field
2:30 p.m.—Negros Oriental vs NCR

But the hosts, buoyed by the overwhelming crowd support, put up a dominating defensive display to deny Cebu, which was coming off a morale-boosting 32-0 win over neophyte Sultan Kudarat. It was actually the second straight win of NegOr booters over the Cebuanas, who bowed, 2-1, in the elimination round.

"I have to give credit to my defense," said Norfa coach Gabriel Bahoyan. "They followed the plan to clear the ball as soon as possible because of the slippery pitch."

"This is a big victory for Negros Oriental football; the crowd support was a big factor for us," Norfa president Tupang Merced said.

After effectively clearing her line, Estosota rushed from the half-line and settled a through ball from Nicole Arevalo, before rifling a well-placed shot inside the penalty box for the opening goal in the 17th minute. Another goal off a counter-attack in the 32nd minute assured Norfa of a 2-0 lead at halftime.

This time it was Calbog receiving a long pass from Tolentino then eluding two defenders for a cool right-footed strike from point-blank range.

Negros Oriental was rewarded for its sustained pressure in the 71st minute when Tolentino sliced into the area to finish off a 1-2 play from inside 8 yards. Moldez, the fleet-footed midfielder, completed the rout nine minutes from time as she cut behind the defense before pouncing on another long pass from Arevalo.

"Our job is not finished yet," said Bahoyan, who wants to put behind a disappointing fourth place finish in the National Under-17 play last summer with a victory here.

Knights choke Bombers; Altas shuffle Cards

By Musong R. Castillo

DEFENDING CHAMPION LETRAN HELD JOSE RIZAL U TO FIVE POINTS IN the second quarter yesterday before cruising to a 70-55 demolition of the Heavy Bombers for a share of the elimination round lead in the 82nd NCAA Senior basketball tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Letran's solid stand practically choked the opponents, thus confirming that coach Louie Alas, shaken by a lose to a bitter rival, has indeed started transforming his Knights into a defense-oriented outfit.

"That has become the trend in the NCAA," said Alas, referring to how teams have improved their defense and how his high-scoring Knights were shut down by San Beda, 57-49, at the end of the first round two weeks ago.

"Look at how San Beda played us," added Alas, known to be an offensive-minded tactician in his MBA and PBA days. "There's still a lot of room for improvement as far as our defense is concerned. We need to control the strengths of our opponents."

Pro-bound Boyet Bautista and Aaron Aban paced the Knights with 16 and 14 points, respectively, and small forward Fiel Daa came off the bench to add 12 with Hafer Mondragon scattering 11 as Letran pulled abreast of San Beda at 9-1.

GAMES MONDAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
12 noon—PCU vs Jose Rizal (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs St. Benilde (Srs)

The Knights, already assured of a Final Four stint, together with the Red Lions and the PCU Dolphins, are expected to press harder in the next games as the top two elimination finishers will gain twice-to-beat semifinal bonuses.

Perpetual Help stepped up its bid for the last semifinal berth by tripping Mapua, 58-53, after getting the goods in the stretch from veteran Khiel Misa.

The sharp-shooting Misa had some crucial baskets to highlight his 22-point, four-rebound and four-assist effort as the Altas improved to 3-7.

From 12-21 down at the end of the first 10 minutes, the full-court press which Alas has been trying to perfect clicked, as succeeding scoring spurts gave the Knights a 32-26 bubble at the break.

The varsity scores:

First Game

LETRAN 70—Bautista 16, Aban 14, Daa 12, Mondragon 11, Quiday 4, Balneg 4, Del Rosario 3, Guevarra 3, Dangcal 3, Realista 0, Faundo 0.

JOSE RIZAL 55—Wilson 13, Sena 10, Pradas 9, Hayes 7, Cagoco 7, Dedicatoria 5, Se 2, Bucao 2, Nocom 0, Fenequito 0, **Echane 0.**

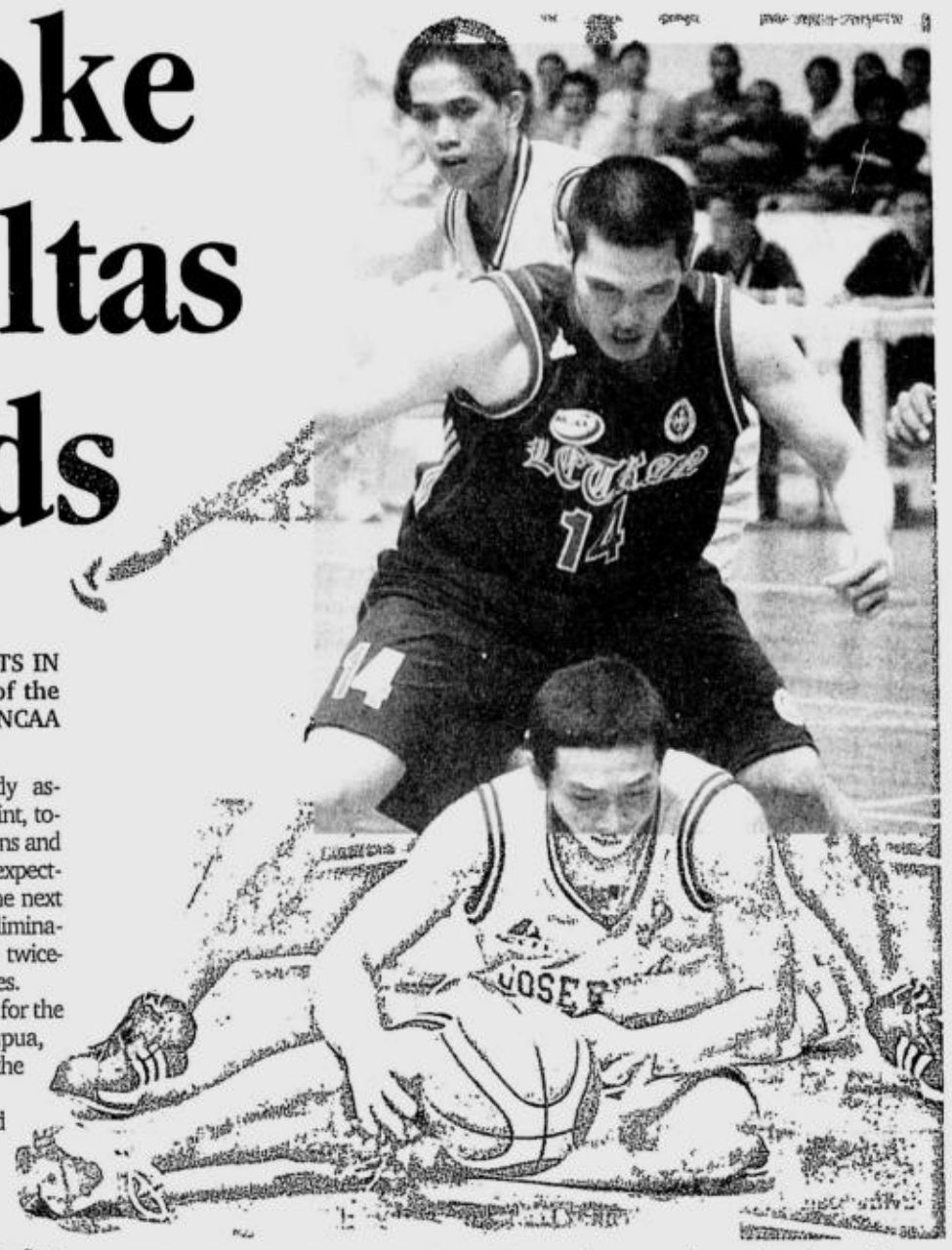
Quarters: 12-21, 32-26, 56-39, 70-55

Second Game

PERPETUAL HELP 58—Misa 22, Reyes 12, Bauzon 10, Mendoza 6, Kong 5, Galabin 3, Manuel 0, Lee 0.

MAPUA 53—Sumalinog 9, Gonzales 8, Co 8, Mazo 6, Pascual 6, Dela Pena 5, Del Rosario 5, Tiongco 2, Pascual 2, Palomique 2, Virata 0, Guillermo 0.

Quarters: 16-8, 31-27, 40-42, 58-53



JOSE Rizal U's John Marlon slips but still controls possession against Letran's Micheal Realista in yesterday's game at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. RYAN LIM

Pivotal game: Falcons take on Tams

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	6	0
Univ of East	4	2
Adamson	3	3
National U	2	4
Univ of Phils	2	4
Far Eastern	2	4
Santo Tomas	2	4

GAMES TODAY
(PhilSports Arena)
10 a.m.—Ateneo vs Adamson (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—NU vs UP (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UE vs UST (Jrs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs Adamson (Srs)

THE ADAMSON FALCONS HAVE BEEN LAPping up several surprises midway in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

The Falcons, boasting a third-best record and the statistical leader in their fold, will try to stay on track against the Far Eastern U Tamaraws at the start of the second round at 4 p.m. today at the PhilSports Arena.

"No one's used to seeing us in the middle of the standings after the first round, we're usually in the cellar," said Adamson coach Leo Austria.

Austria feels "the players are starting to believe in the system."

Riding on an unexpected strong start, the Falcons claimed solo third (3-3), behind the unbeaten Ateneo Blue Eagles and the University of the East Warriors.

Main man Ken Bono also emerged the frontrunner in the statistical race by averaging 20.3 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.

But it seemed the Tamaraws have already conquered their early struggles after closing the first round with two straight wins.

"We still have a chance," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "We still have a lot to work on, but somehow we're able to pick up."

Point guard Jonas Villanueva revived the Tamaraws' campaign by norming 24 points in their two victories against the University of the Philippines Maroons and the Falcons.

"We're winning because of our defense and aggressiveness," said Flores. "I'm really pushing our players. We're all trying to help each other."

The defending champion Tamaraws are locked in a four-way tie at 2-4 with the Maroons, the National U Bulldogs and the UST Tigers.

A win today would give them a share of third place with the Falcons.

Before the lone senior match, the Ateneo Blue Eaglets will try to extend their winning streak to seven against the Adamson Baby Falcons in junior play at 10 a.m. *Jasmine W. Payo*

MEMBERS of the Lebanon national basketball team, ranked second only to mighty China in Asia, arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport from Jordan to play two games against the Philippine training team on Aug. 13 and 16. The Lebanese are using the games to prepare for the World Basketball Championship in Saitama, Japan. JESS YUSON

SAMSUNG TOUR

Aunzo finally grabs crown at Splendido

THIS TIME, FERDIE AUNZO WAS not to be denied.

Aunzo birdied the 17th to forge a tie for the lead then watched Mark Fernando crumble with a three-put bogey on the last hole for a one-stroke victory yesterday in the fourth leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Splendido Taal Golf Club course in Laurel, Batangas.

Still smarting from his narrow loss in the previous leg in his Davao hometown to Gene Bondoc on a holed pitch from the fringe, it was the 25-year-old Aunzo's turn to savor the victory.

Eastridge bet Aunzo recovered from a shaky start that saw him fall behind by four strokes after three holes to shoot a 72 for a 54-hole total of 217 in the rain-shortened event and become the fourth qualifier in the championship division.

Fernando, who shot a 74 for 218, banged in back-to-back birdies on Nos. 15 and 16 but failed to get the breaks in the last two holes.

After Aunzo rolled in his tying putt from 16 feet on the 17th, he and Fernando appeared headed to a sudden-death when both landed safely on the green on the 18th. But Fernando blew it all as he rammed a 12-foot birdie try four feet past the cup and then missed the par putt.

Aunzo thus joined former national team mainstays Marvin Dumandan, Jun Bernis and Bondoc in the grand finals in November of the series given full backing by Taylor Made. The other sponsors are C-Lium Fibre, Microtel, Titleist, Custom Clubmakers/KZG, Sunbolt and Sunrise Hotel in Tagaytay.

Larry Patnongon nipped former senator Tito Sotto in a three-hole playoff for the Class A crown while Arnel Agustin beat Roger Cua by three shots to top Class B.

Anthony Fernando, Mark's cousin who shared the first-round lead with Aunzo, shot himself in the foot with a triple-bogey 7 on the seventh hole en route to a 75 and solo third place at 222.

Other Championship Division results: Joseph Labajo (75-225), fourth; Rufino Bayron (74-227), fifth; Kevin Tayao (79-229), Eric Gozo (74-233); Oh Byung Nam (78-239) and Venjo Reyes (77-240).

Thoss key in keeping Alaska nucleus intact

By June Navarro

SONNY THOSS WILL BE THE CENTRAL FIGURE in the Alaska frontline for several years.

The Aces made sure to keep the 6-foot-7 center over the next three seasons after signing him up to a fresh contract worth at least P12.4 million, a reliable source yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Thoss was said to have inked a pact that would give him P337,500 in the initial year, excluding perks and the maximum allowable monthly salary of P350,000 in the last two years.

Aside from Thoss, the Aces also retained the services of playmaker Mike Cortez, John Ferriols and Eddie Laure to keep the team nucleus intact.

Cortez inked a maximum deal with the Aces spread over three years, while Ferriols and Laure agreed to two-year extensions with the latter getting at least P4 million in salaries. Financial terms on the contract of Ferriols were not divulged.

"We really want to keep the team intact and we feel that these players could help us accomplish our goal next season," said Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo.

With 10 players with live contracts in the Alaska lineup; including the seldom-used Banjo Calpito and Rensy Bajar, the status of Bong Hawkins depends on the Aug. 20 PBA Rookie Draft.

Hatfield, with new GF, not too keen on PBA comeback

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

"THE KID WAS INtimidated," was boxing analyst Recah Trinidad's postmortem on the Brian Viloria-Omar Nino Romero titular fight in Las Vegas yesterday.

"*Walang init, kulang sa sili*," was the way he described Viloria, who lost the World Boxing Council light-flyweight title to the Mexican via a 12-round decision.

Against the 30-year-old challenger, Brian was favored to win.

I texted Solar's Peter Chanliong in Las Vegas to ask what Brian meant when he said that he "waited too long," but got no reply.

* * *

People who attended last Thursday's PBA dispersal draft at the PSC Auditorium in Pasig were perplexed.

They could not understand the rationale behind the choices Welcoat team manager Boy Lapid was making. They said it was more of a wish list than anything else.

Boy was picking the likes of Eric Menk, Rommel Adducul, Enrico Villanueva, Larry Fonacier, James Yap, Marc Pingris, RenRen Ritualo, Ranidel de Ocampo, Nino Canaleta, and other players who were sure to be in the protected list.

When the two-round draft was over, only three players were added to the Welcoat lineup: Gilbert Lao, Rob Wainwright and Denver Lopez.

* * *

"*Nagbabakasakali lang kami.* Who knows, *baka hindi naisama sa* protected list *yung mga pinili namin*," said Boy, who disclosed that his picks were former Welcoat players.

"If not now, maybe we can get them back to our fold in the next three or four years. Hopefully."

* * *

Looks like it will be very difficult to lure cager Rudy Hatfield back to the PBA.

To start with, Rudy is now a fireman. And in the United States, unlike here in our country, that job is very prestigious and high-paying.

Americans look up to firemen, perhaps more than they do law enforcers. The role of firemen in American society was best emphasized during the 9-11 tragedy where a number of firefighters were killed in the line of duty, while rescuing trapped victims from the rubble of the World Trade Center.

* * *

Aside from his new job, another factor that would probably go against Rudy's decision to make a PBA comeback is the presence of a new love interest.

Rudy has a new girlfriend who he intends to marry, a veteran colleague intimated.

Rudy's girl, he said, doesn't want the cager-fireman to return to the Philippines.

I wonder if she knows about Rufa Mae. Could Rudy still be carrying a torch for her?

* * *

To get an idea on how the Aug. 20 PBA Rookie Draft would go, I dropped by the PhilSports Arena last Wednesday to take a look at the rookie camp. I also talked to coaches Al Chua of Sta. Lucia, Tim Cone of Alaska and Siot Tanquingcen of Ginebra, to find out who they had their eyes on.

I was particularly curious about Al's choice because he was making the first pick. I got nowhere. Al was keeping his choice close to his chest.

I was surprised to find out that Ginebra had given up all its draft picks, and would need to choose reinforcements from the free-agent market.

Since Alaska is one of the last to pick, Tim said he has no idea who would be left available to him.

100 entries in LP stagfest

MORE THAN 100 COCKERS AND BREEDERS HAVE firmed up their commitment to join the upcoming Annual Las Piñas 6-Stag Derby slated Aug. 24 and 26 at the Las Piñas Coliseum. To be hosted by former Mayor Nene Aguilar, the stagfest offers a prize pot of at least P1 million. The champions will also get three refrigerators. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias said participants walk-in entries should bring their stags at LPC office today and tomorrow for screening and wingbanding. For inquiries, call Julius at 873-1040 or 874-3910.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Masiado (5), Bobon Lancer (1), Tower Of Class (2), Smooth As Silk (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Spoiler (1), Ocean Dignity/ Loang Road (5), Raging River (3), Sir Lawrence (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Limited Edition (3), Kang Kang (8), Regal Chief (6), Jade Express (2)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Il Amorosa (1), Expiditer (5), Extreme Romance (3), Capricorn Aida (7)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Jet Sutter (5), Cash Fedder (1), Full Of Fury (3), Hundred Reason (6)
Race 6—(Dong Nene (4), Kate Alex (6), Irish Connection/Mark's House (3), Western Legend (7)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Moab (6), Speed O'War/Speed Advantage (5), Michael Da Dragon (1), Hellfire/Thor Simba (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Top Of D'Line (3), Friendly Venture (1), Cartada Nueve (2), Classic Royale (5)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Smarty Pants (5), Kai King/Prince Richard (3), Golden Song (11), Fontana De Trevi (1), Baleng Ganda (9)
Race 10—(I Love This Game (1), Ocean Deep (7), Real Black (6), Eye Candy (2)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Sharp Cookie (3), Sambat (2), Advance Party (1), Rockwell (7)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Coolmore (8), West N Wild (7), Powerhouse (6), Federal COurt (3), Red Storm (5)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Loveko To (9), My Rabbonnie (10), Kimagure (10< Going Strike (6), Battle Hero (7), Princess Leghla (2)

Sharapova sails to quarterfinals

CARSON, CALIFORNIA—MARIA Sharapova breezed past Marion Bartoli on a hot day and advanced to the JPMorgan Chase Open quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-2 victory against the Frenchwoman.

Serena Williams, making a comeback from a knee injury that dropped her ranking to 110th, defeated seventh-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3, despite 31 errors and only 10 winners.

Hantuchova was the last player Williams lost to before leaving the tour after the Australian Open in January because of her knee.

Williams fell hard while chasing a forehand along the baseline in the sixth game of the first set. One game later, she called for a trainer, who taped her left ankle.

With fourth-seeded Lindsay Davenport's ouster from the bottom half of the draw Wednesday, and No. 6 Anna-Lena Groenefeld losing Thursday, Williams has a clear path to the final.

Sharapova, the top seed who is coming off a title last week in Carlsbad, extended her winning streak to seven matches. She had 38 winners to Bartoli's six in the match that lasted barely more than an hour under a hot sun.

Sharapova next plays fifth-seeded Dinara Safina of Russia on Friday. *AP*

Czech upsets Nadal; Federer advances

AFTER a mild stumble, Roger Federer gets up and marches onwards to the quarterfinals. AP

TORONTO—TOMAS BERDYCH of the Czech Republic upset defending champion Rafael Nadal of Spain, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, in the third round of the Rogers Cup on Thursday.

Berdych frustrated the Spaniard by keeping his rallies as short as possible. It worked, and the 13th-seeded Berdych scored his second straight win over Nadal, after a win last year in Cincinnati.

"I was attacking every single shot," Berdych said. "I was putting a lot of pressure on him."

Top-seeded Roger Federer of Switzerland also advanced with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-0 win over Dmitry Tursunov of Russia. Federer will face Xavier Malisse of Belgium, who defeated Thomas Johansson of Sweden, 7-6 (7), 6-3.

Federer rolled his right ankle in a hard fall against Tursunov but said he was uninjured.

"It was definitely a tough match against a guy who has become confident," Federer said. "I was happy the way I closed out the third set because it was really getting tough in the second."

Berdych will face Richard Gasquet of France in the quarterfinals. Gasquet eliminated Fernando Verdasco of Spain, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2.

Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, the 15th seed, reached the quarters of the $2.45-million tournament with a 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3) win fourth-seeded Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia and will next play Jose Acasuso of Argentina, who defeated Julien Benneteau of France, 6-3, 7-6 (4). *AP*

Stanford leads LPGA tilt; Rosales 11 down

LONDON, CANADA—ANGELA Stanford fired the best round of her career, a bogey-free eight-under par 64, to seize a three-stroke lead here Thursday after the first round of the $1.7 million LPGA Canadian Open.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales floundered with a 75, 11 strokes back.

The American seeks the second title of her six-year career and made a solid start by matching the best round in the five-year history of the only LPGA event in Canada.

Many of the world's top women players are either playing at an event in Europe hosted by Annika Sorenstam or simply taking a week off, but Stanford was impressive after finishing third at the event last year on a different course.

"My goal was to be patient," Stanford said. "I just gave myself some chances and the putts were going in."

Stanford, who has only one top-10 finish in 18 starts, was closely pursued by South Korean Jee Young Lee and Americans Cristie Kerr and Vicki Goetze-Ackerman.

After a run of three birdies in a row starting at the par-3 second hole, Stanford birdied the seventh and ninth and ran off another three-birdie streak starting at the par-4 12th before finishing with four pars.

"I started rolling the ball better at the (British Open) last week," said Stanford. "When you're putting well or if you have confidence in your putter, you'll hit it to more conservative spots on the green because you're rolling it well and you can make some of those putts."

Kerr birdied two holes on the front side and three on the front without a bogey. *AFP*

Oleg battles last American standing

NEVADA—KAZAKHSTAN-BORN FIGHTER Oleg Maskaev could complete a sweep of heavyweight titles by former Soviet bloc boxers when he faces World Boxing Council champion Hasim Rahman here Saturday.

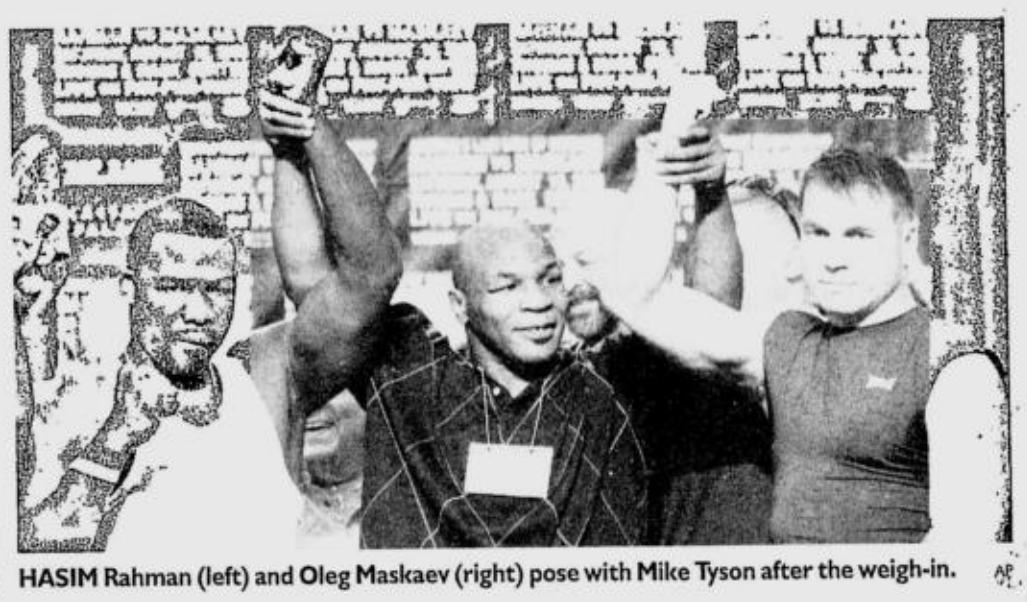
The 37-year-old former Russian Army lieutenant became a US citizen two years ago and hopes to repeat a 1999 knockout of Rahman, a feat that would leave no American atop the division among the major sanctioning bodies.

"We're going to march over Oleg Maskaev," Rahman said. "I don't really care where he's from. This American will take the title."

Russian giant Nikolai Valuev is the World Boxing Association champion while Ukrainian Wladimir Klitschko owns the International Boxing Federation crown and Belarus' Sergei Lyakhovich is the World Boxing Organization heavyweight king.

"I need to hold it down for my country. Never before have I felt like I put my country on my back," Rahman said. "I can't allow this to happen. I can't allow them to have a clean sweep."

The last time no American was seen as a major heavyweight champion was when England's Lennox Lewis unified the titles. His retirement left a glamour void within the division that has largely gone unfulfilled.



HASIM Rahman (left) and Oleg Maskaev (right) pose with Mike Tyson after the weigh-in. AP

Maskaev weighed in Thursday at 238 pounds, three more than Rahman.

Maskaev, 32-5 with 25 knockouts, has won 10 fights in a row. One of his early stoppages was when he knocked Rahman out of the ring in the eighth round in 1999. Rahman, 41-5 with two drawn and 33 knockouts, recovered and stunned Lewis in 2001. *AFP*

Barcelon hits longest

JASON BARCELON HAD THE best drive of 271 yards in the men's regular category of the Dunlop Longest Drive Challenge qualifying held Saturday at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Joining Barcelon in the grand finals set Sept. 12 are Camille Chung (203) in the women's division, Carlos Farrales (225) in the men's senior class and Gabriel Assistio (280) in the juniors 17 and below division.

Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club is hosting the second leg today while the other participating clubs and qualifying dates are Canlubang (Aug. 19), Orchard (Aug. 26), Southwoods (Sept. 2), Villamor (Sept. 7) and Manila Polo Club (Sept. 9).

Prizes at stake in the grand finals are Dunlop Loco Pro golf set in the men's open, regular and seniors divisions, Dunlop Avega golf set in the women's open class and Dunlop Slammer golf set in the unisex juniors division. A box of Dunlop Loco Motion balls will also be awarded to all the winners in the qualifying rounds and grand finals.

Spring-Tagaytay cagers subdue Skytex

THE COMBINED SPRING-TAGAYtay squad of NBC executives Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Mayor Bambol Tolentino finally broke into the win column of the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament by subduing Skytex Foam, 85-82, Thursday at the Lyceum gym.

Veteran Mar Reyes, Larry Rodriguez and Nani Epondulan scored 28, 16 and 12 points, respectively, to propel Spring-Tagaytay to its first win in three starts in the tourney organized by cage talent manager Danny Espiritu.

Spring-Tagaytay led from start to finish after pacing Scott Go's Skytex Foam, 18-8, in the first quarter.

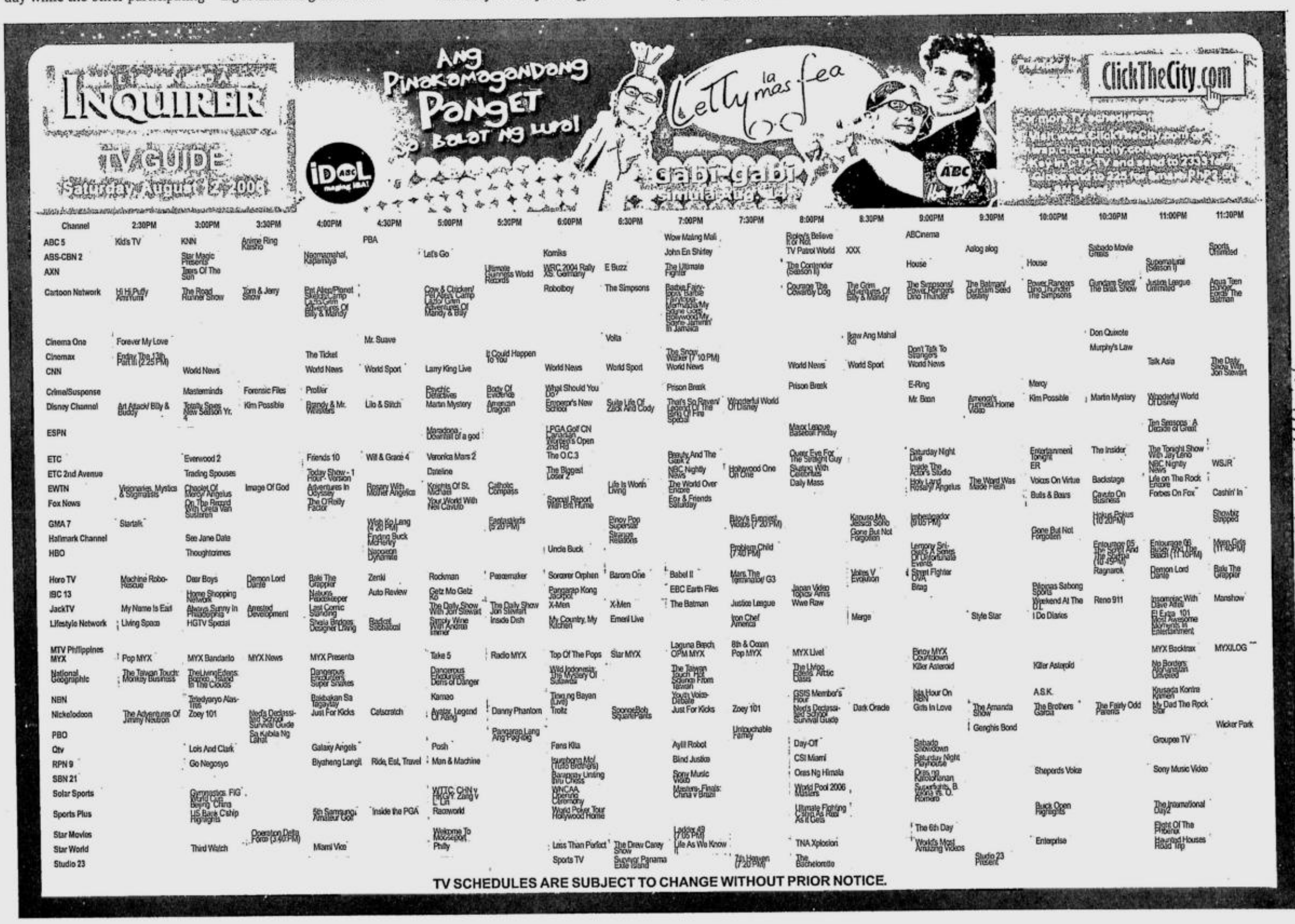
Eugene Ibañez's 5th Avenue Telecoms whipped Mike Dullas' Laptop Pawnshop, 78-66, in the other game.

The scores:

SPRING-TAGAYTAY 85—M. Reyes 28, Rodriguez 16, Epondulan 12, Guiyab 8, Barnson 6, Genido 3, Finuliar 3, T. Reyes 3, Morante 2, Mallari 2, Cuenca 2

SKYTEX 82—Sanz 21, Gamboa 16, Misolas 11, Hubalde 9, Malaonzo 8, Salangsang 7, Luslestica 4, Ilagan 3, Gamboa 3.

Quarters: 18-8, 43-29, 63-53, 85-82



TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SPORTS

Bacolod softbelles battle America West

ETCS nine hoping to duplicate Paglaum's 2003 victory

By Christian Irl Tan
Inquirer Visayas

THE PHILIPPINES' EDUCATION AND TRAINing Center School (ETCS) of Bacolod City takes on America West at the start of the 2006 Junior League World Series at Field B of Everest Park in Kirkland, Washington, on Sunday afternoon (Monday morning in Manila).

The ETCS-America West encounter among girls' 13 to 14 years old follows the matches between Europe and Middle East and that of Africa and America East at 2:30 p.m.

The games in Field A will see America South battling Latin America at 2:45 p.m., before Kirkland National Little League-District IX clashes with America Southwest at 5:30 p.m.

The ETCS squad placed third twice in its two previous World Series campaigns.

The Bacolod-based Philippine squad, mentored by Dina Barlita, Vilda Benjamin and Lagrimas Ciokon, carries the banner of Asia-Pacific.

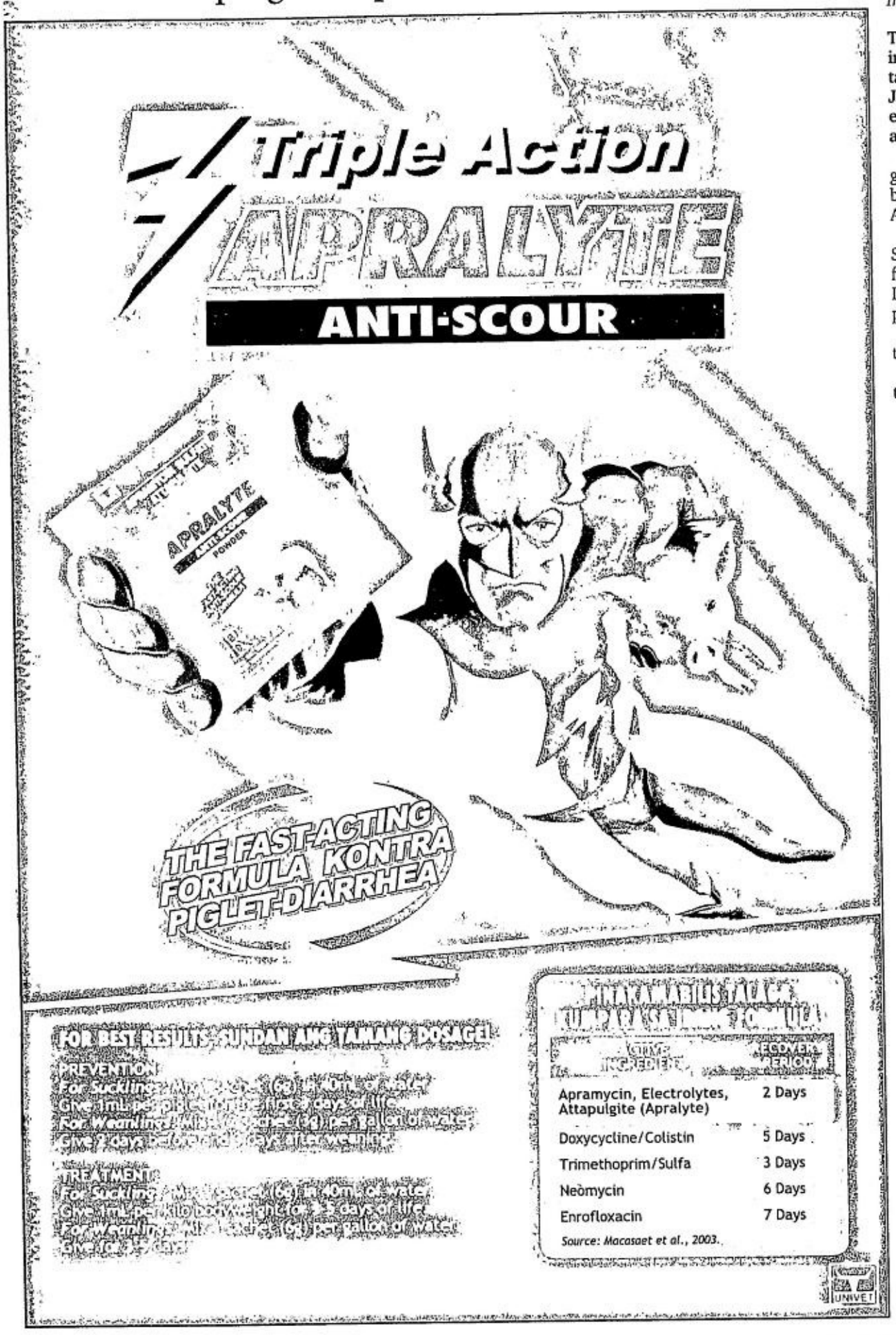
The team representing America West has not been determined.

The Bacolod softbelles earned the right to represent Asia-Pacific in the international event after winning the 2006 Little League Philippine (LLP) Series in Nueva Ecija in April.

The team is hoping to duplicate the feat of Paglaum Village National High School, which won the country's first and only World Series crown three years ago.

The Filipinas almost suffered a setback before the competitions started after they were stricken off the roster of the girls' 13-14 championship Monday.

Chito Gonzales, LLP executive assistant, said that Pat Wilson, vice-president for international affairs of Little League Inc., reconsidered the entry of the Bacolod team on the same day.



Subic Bay Milo Marathon elims lure 12,000 runners

MORE THAN 12,000 RUNNERS ARE EXpected to answer the starting gun when the 30th National Milo Marathon elimination race hits the road this Sunday at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

The top three male and female finishers in the 21K run will receive trophies, cash prizes and an all-expense-paid round trip to Manila for the finals on Dec. 10.

The 21K winners get P10,000 each while the second and third placers pocket P6,000 and P4,000 each, respectively.

The race, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Power Bar, will start on Waterfront Road fronting Building 229 and end at the Remy Field near the main gate.

Olongapo City Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino is organizing Sunday's race with support from the SBMA Administration and its medical and security group.

Participants are advised to be at the starting area at 5 a.m. for the pre-race briefing. The race starts at 6 a.m. Also scheduled are the 5K fun run and 3K Kiddies event.

The last time the Milo Marathon was held in Zambales was in 2004 in Olongapo City with Rey Antoque and Maria Elena Torcelino topping the race.

It was the last marathon leg win for Antoque, who joined the organizing team of the Tarlac City eliminations last year.

Invited to grace the occasion on Sunday are SBMA chair Fil Salonga, administrator Arman Arresa, SBMA tourism manager Benny Triguero and Olongapo Mayor James Gordon.

Aside from the running competition, the top three schools with the most number of students finishing the 5K run get P10,000 developmental cash awards.

Pasa holds clinics for swim coaches

IN LINE WITH ITS PROGRAM OF CONTINUous education, the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association launched yesterday the first of a nationwide clinics for local swim coaches.

Dubbed as the Pilipinas Swimming Coaches Clinic, the series started with the Luzon edition at the Philippine Center of Excellence in Aquatic Sports in Los Baños, Laguna.

This will be followed by the Visayas staging at the Sta. Fe Resort in Bacolod and the Mindanao edition at the Ateneo de Zamboanga.

Former national swim coach Fred Arzaga, now based in Canada, is conducting the three-day pre-World Swimming Coaches Association (WSCA) certification clinics.

"Coaches' education and certification is the basis of sport success in 70 countries throughout the world and it is a must that our local coaches go through this pre-WSCA certification clinic," said Pasa president Mark Joseph.

Joseph said that participation in the series, expected to lure close to 150 participants, is a prerequisite for the international swimming federation, Fina, certified coaches clinic next year.

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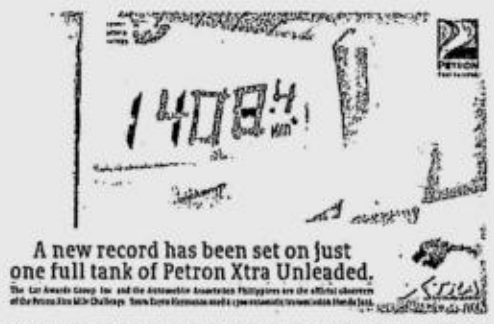


Farm sector grew 5.14% in 1st half

Favorable weather boosted crops, fishery output

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR GREW 5.14 PERCENT IN THE first half of 2006 from a year earlier, above expectations of a 5-percent rise, the government announced yesterday.

The farm sector accounts for about a fifth of the country's gross domestic product.

Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban said the large harvests of rice and corn last May would result in a rise in first-half agricultural output of up to 5 percent.

The government is aiming for overall economic growth of 5.5 to 6.2 percent this year, compared with 5 percent growth in 2005. The government is due to release second-quarter GDP figures on Aug. 31.

FARM/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

Gov't to sell PLDT stake in 2007 /B2

Big boost expected in local $200-M tuna export industry /B3

'Hot money' back in RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET FOREIGN INFLOWS · INTO LOCAL stocks, debt paper and bank products surged 50 percent to $117.3 million in July from $78.1 million a year ago as investors who were earlier distracted by rising US interest rates returned to emerging markets like the Philippines.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the rebound in July portfolio inflow brought the seven-month net inflow to $890.9 million, but this was still a far cry from the $1.93 billion recorded a year ago.

Portfolio inflow, bulk of which consisted of investments in the stock market, is also referred to as "hot money" due to its volatile nature.

Investors sold their holdings in Asian emerging markets in May on concerns that the US Federal Reserve might continue its two-year monetary tightening. The higher bond yield in the United States as influenced by the series of increases in the Fed's overnight rates from 1 to 5.25 percent for 17 consecutive meetings lured more global investors back to dollar-denominated assets.

But the regional markets stabilized in the latter part of June, allowing the Philippines to generate $106.3 million in net portfolio inflow compared to only $76.4 million in May.

Based on BSP documents, total portfolio inflow in July amounted to $736.2 million as against total outflow of $629.9 million.

From January to July, the country attracted $3.88 billion in hot money, or more than the $2.99 billion that went out.

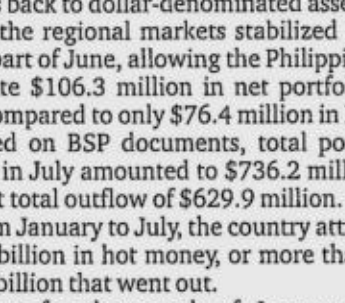
Except for the month of January when there was a net portfolio outflow worth $117 million, the country has been posting positive inflow of hot money this year. The biggest monthly net inflow came in February at $514.8 million, with May posting the lowest at $76.4 million.

The positive portfolio inflow, along with the influx of remittances from overseas Filipino workers and some foreign direct investments, allowed the peso to be a net gainer against the dollar.

After ending at 53.09 against the dollar last year, the local currency recovered to the 51:$1 level and is widely expected to revisit the year's peak of 50.88:$1 soon.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

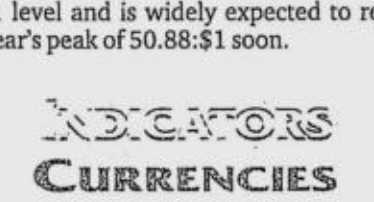
₱51.25 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 11, 2006

¥115.53 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 11, 2006

GOLD: $641.30-641.80
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 11, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks up slightly

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.66-PERCENT higher yesterday, led by gains in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which tracked the rise in its US-listed shares, dealers said.

The composite index added 15.40 points to 2,341.46.

Overseas markets and the scheduled re-

SHARES/ B2

Gov't to sell PLDT stake in '07

Landbank H1 profit up 18%

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES POSTED A first half net profit of P1.65 billion, up 18 percent from year-ago level, as the increase in its loan volume more than offset lower interest margins during the period.

In a press briefing Thursday night, Landbank's acting president Gilda Pico said that with the strong first semester performance, the bank would likely exceed its P3.3-billion net income target for the full year.

Increased income from loans alongside prudent management of expenses were the primary reasons for the continued improvement in the bank's profitability, Pico explained.

Landbank's total revenue expanded to P11.5 billion in the first semester, of which P6.1 billion came from lending activities and P4.1 billion from investments.

The bank's loan portfolio grew by 4.2 percent to P163.8 billion while its investment portfolio rose 4.3 percent to P108.3 billion. Landbank is the country's fourth biggest bank in terms of resources. Its assets were placed at P315.7 billion while its capital adequacy ratio stood at 13 percent.

The bank expects the shift to tighter capital adequacy framework under Basle 2 to trim down its CAR by 2-3 percentage points, especially with the provision raising the risk weights on real and other properties owned and acquired to 150 percent.

Pico said Landbank was able to raise its loan portfolio while addressing the needs of its priority sectors. As of June 2006, outstanding loans to microenterprises and small and medium enterprises amounted to P18.5 billion, while P22.8 billion was disbursed to local government units and P15.9 billion to small farmers and fisherfolk.

The aim is to dispose the shares at highest price possible–Abcede

THE GOVERNMENT IS LOOKING AT SELLING its 6- to 7-percent stake in the country's biggest telecom group, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., next year after the Supreme Court this week reaffirmed its ruling awarding the shares to the government.

The government has reclaimed the stake, valued at P26 billion based on Friday's closing price, as part of a long-running battle to recover wealth illegally amassed by the late former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was ousted in 1986.

"The ultimate aim is to be able to dispose of these shares at the highest price possible," Ricardo Abcede, commissioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), the agency tasked with recovering Marcos's assets, said.

"The best thing to do is to sell it in one block."

Previous reports quoted PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan, also chief executive of First Pacific which owns 24 percent of PLDT, as saying the Hong Kong-based holding firm would "definitely" bid if the shares were sold.

Japan's NTT, the world's largest telecom group in terms of revenue, said early this year that it wanted to raise its stake in PLDT to 20 percent from about 14 percent now held via mobile affiliate NTT Docomo Inc. and NTT Communications.

PLDT is one of several top Philippine companies that have ownership disputes arising from Marcos' 20-year regime, including southeast Asia's largest food and drinks group, San Miguel Corp., and lender Equitable PCI Bank.

The government is claiming a 47-percent stake in San Miguel, but the dispute is stuck in the courts.

PANGILINAN

Abcede said the government would immediately exercise its right to nominate a representative to the 13-person PLDT board.

PLDT shares yesterday closed at P2,025 up 2.79 percent from Thursday, outperforming the main index which added 0.66 percent.

The company reported on Tuesday that its second quarter net income fell 8 percent from a year ago but core earnings, which strip out currency and derivative gains, rose 11 percent in the first half. *Reuters*

BOC excise tax collection down 13% in January-June

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS' EXCISE TAX collection from imported cigarettes and alcohol dropped by nearly 13 percent year-on-year in the first semester.

Government data showed that the BOC collection of excise tax from these 'sin' products reached only P399 million in the first semester. The figure was 12.9 percent lower than the P458 million posted in the same period last year.

Of the first half sin tax collection, P317 million came from imported alcohol while P82 million came from imported cigarettes.

Revenue authorities earlier said the inability of the BOC to increases its excise tax collection from sin products could be blamed on a ruling of the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court in the middle of last year which barred the government from imposing the Sin Tax law in Subic. The court said excise taxes could not be slapped on goods coming through Subic, which was considered an external territory.

The Sin Tax law, or Republic Act No. 9334, raised the excise tax rates on cigarettes and alcohol. The law took effect in January last year.

The hike in the rates was one of the Arroyo administration's measures aimed at putting the country's fiscal house in order. The government had projected to raise P15 billion in additional yearly revenue from the Sin Tax law, but the BOC and the Bureau of Internal Revenue failed to meet this target last year.

Fiscal authorities, however, said the unrealized revenue expectations from the Sin Tax law would not be a significant deterrent to achieving the government's fiscal goals this year because the shortfall in this area could be compensated by the incremental collection from other tax measures, such as the Reformed VAT law.

Although it failed to meet last year's sin tax collection target, the BIR managed to post a year-on-year growth in the first semester of the year.

Earlier, reports showed that the BIR's collection of excise taxes on sin products reached P21.78 billion in the first half. This was 11 percent higher than the P19.55 billion collected

BOC/ B3

FLI net rose 9% in first semester

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST LAND INC., ONE OF THE country's largest property firms, said its net income grew 9 percent to P296.4 million in the first six months, buoyed by profits from its middle income housing projects.

FLI earned P272 million in the same period last year.

In its report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, FLI said gross profit—or total sales less cost of goods sold—increased 4 percent to P607.4 million in the first half from P533.8 million in the same period last year.

New sales in the first half were mostly from middle-income housing projects such as Spring Country, Serra Monte Villas, and The Tropics all in Quezon City; Parkspring in San Pedro, Laguna; Auburn Place in Las Piñas; Corona del Mar in Cebu; Orange Grove in Davao; Aldea del Sol in Cebu, and Fuente de Villa Abrille in Davao.

FLI's affordable housing projects in Cavite, namely Woodville, Springfieldview, Crystal Aire and Belvedere Townhomes likewise registered good profits, the company said.

Fely Ramos, FLI's first vice president said in a disclosure that sales reservations for the first half of 2006 increased by 22 percent.

Rising metal prices help Lepanto cut losses

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LEPANTO CONSOLIDATED MINING Co., the country's top gold producer, said it was able to cut its net loss in the first six months to P24.6 million from P172.1 million in the same period last year, mainly due to higher gold prices this year.

Lepanto continued to incur losses due to lower gold production.

The average gold prices jumped to $592 an ounce this year from last year's average of $426 an ounce.

Gold production reached 28,153 ounces in the first half, lower than the 30,760 ounces produced in the same period last year. This, according to the company, was due to lower gold content in the ore extracted from its mines.

In the first half, the company recovered 3.19 grams of gold per ton of ore or lower than 3.89 grams per ton last year.

A dry-run of Lepanto's copper-gold flotation, which will help the company raise its gold yield, was initiated in June.

Lepanto chair Felipe Yap said the company would reopen its copper-gold mine in Mankayan, Benguet Province, whose operations were suspended in 2001, in view of the continued rise in metal prices in the world market.

The development of the copper mine is expected to cost the company more than P1 billion. The Mankayan mine is projected to generate 7,000 tons of copper concentrates on its first year of operation.

The company said total capital expenditures in the first half reached P289.3 million, P196.0 million of which went to mine development and special projects, while exploration activities accounted for P34 million.

For the whole year, the company expects its capital expenditures to reach P600 million, inclusive of the cost of its copper-gold flotation project.

Lepanto is projecting a net income of P104 million this year, a turnaround from a net loss of P409.5 million in 2005, with the expected increase in its metal sales.

The company is planning to raise P639 million from a "1-for-8" stock rights offer. Proceeds from the offer will be used to pay down P219 million in debts, shareholder advances worth P266 million and accounts payables worth P638 million, which include employee-related accounts and pension contributions.

RISING/ B3

Farm sector grew 5.14% . . .

From page B1

Panganiban said favorable weather in the first half of the year spurred robust crops and fishery production.

Citing a report from the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Panganiban said the crops sub-sector, which accounts for 47.3 percent of agricultural production, expanded by 5.96 percent in the first six months, recovering from last year's decline of 1.43 percent.

Another sub-sector that provided the push was the fishery sector, which recorded an 8.55-percent growth.

"Good policy directions, especially the early release of government funds, really paved the way for this growth in the sector," Panganiban said.

The Arroyo administration advanced the release of P4.1 billion in funds for irrigation and agriculture inputs during the first semester.

Panganiban said the first-half performance has boosted the chances of the agriculture sector meeting the 5-percent growth target for 2006.

"Now we could say that we could do more than the 4-percent growth we targeted before," he said.

The Bureau of Agriculture Statistics reported that during the second quarter, the agriculture sector expanded by 6.41 percent, or treble the 2.08-percent growth in the same period last year.

The livestock sub-sector posted a 2.87-percent growth with gains from the increased production of the hogs and dairy sectors. However, this growth has been offset by corresponding declines in the carabao, cattle and goat sub-sectors.

Poultry production, on the other hand, also declined by 1.49 percent as delays in the importation of breeding stocks hampered the industry's growth.

Stocks up slightly

From page B1

lease of results for key listed local issues are seen influencing the direction of share prices next week, dealers said yesterday.

"These factors will set the tone for trading next week," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

Dealers said the central bank's decision Thursday to keep borrowing costs steady amid slowing inflation, although widely expected, should also help improve investor sentiment, along with a rising peso and exports.

For the week to Aug. 11, the composite index fell 0.89 percent or 21.14 points to 2,341.46.

Average daily turnover fell to 3.01 billion shares worth P1.06 billion compared to 3.81 billion shares worth P1.45 billion in the previous week. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 11, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	32,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	32.5	32	32.5	92,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	53	52.5	52.5	720,500
China Banking Corp.	705	710	705	705	2,650
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	210,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	78	78.5	77.5	78.5	89,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39	38.5	38.5	386,200
Phil. Savings Bank	42	42	42	42	9,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.5	17	16.5	16.75	62,500
Security Bank Corp.	48	48.5	48	48.5	32,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45.5	45	45.5	31,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	200,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	239,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30.5	30	30.5	12,100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1610	1610	1610	1610	200
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	700,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	218	219	218	218	2,510
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1920	1920	1920	1920	10
Ivantage Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,260,000
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	28,200
First Phil Hldgs Corp	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	312,200
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.5	16,500
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	219,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.1	8.9	9	7,503,000
Petron Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	1,405,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	50,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	650,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	9,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	32,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32	31.5	31.5	335,900
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.9	3.8	3.8	1,470,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	40,400
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	74.5	73.5	74.5	46,700
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.25	19	19	658,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.29	720,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,989,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.85	232,000
Phil Nat'l Const Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	410,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.7	5	4.7	4.75	55,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.42	0.45	0.4	0.42	101,150,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.0825	0.08	0.08	3,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	172,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	412.5	412.5	410	410	92,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	170,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	5	5	31,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.034	0.035	0.03	0.035	105,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	200,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	1,260,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	109,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.98	0.94	0.97	2,060,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	150,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	2,863,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	295,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	45,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	79,000
Keppel Holdings	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Medco Holdings	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.22	0.195	0.21	13,050,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.56	0.57	0.55	0.55	210,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.155	0.14	0.14	40,770,000
SM Investments Corp.	218	218	214	214	39,560
South China Resources Inc	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.9	440,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.145	0.155	0.12	0.125	70,910,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,420,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	5,611,900
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	5,998,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.32	2,710,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.14	2.16	63,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,530,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	5,210,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.05	0.0575	0.05	0.0525	53,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.34	1.34	8,039,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	510,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	16,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	19,929,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.24	4,690,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	2,040,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.5	11.75	85,900
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.43	5,600,000
SM Development Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	1,067,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.9	2,325,000
SERVICE MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	23,500
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	147,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	2,499,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1020	1035	1020	1035	23,620
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.55	2,926,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2010	2030	2010	2025	123,760
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.18	2,560,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2.05	2	2.04	195,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	3,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	32,500,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	39,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	15	14.75	15	302,900
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	662,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.32	2,309,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	250,000
EDUCATION					
Far Eastern University	985	985	985	985	200
Ipeople Inc	3	3	3	3	10,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.08	215,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	730,800
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	6,088,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.25	4.45	4.25	4.35	4,455,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	12,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.9	8.1	7.8	7.8	574,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	27,940,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	10,610,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.025	481,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	80,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.009	0.01	466,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.55	4.6	4.5	4.5	10,741,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.6	12,221,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	66,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.54	0.57	0.52	0.55	9,310,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	200,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,760,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	86,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	179,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	2,595,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	1,079,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	14	14	12.75	12.75	370,800
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	4,890
Pldt (10% Pref) Series F	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	4,000

CURRENCIES

August 11, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.781677	1.000000	51.2650
Japan	Yen	0.006780	0.008674	0.4447
United Kingdom	Pound	1.480263	1.893700	97.0805
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100515	0.128589	6.5921
Switzerland	Franc	0.633399	0.810307	41.5404
Canada	Dollar	0.693591	0.887311	45.4880
Singapore	Dollar	0.497503	0.636456	32.6279
Australia	Dollar	0.602356	0.770594	39.5045
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.073525	2.652661	135.9887
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208448	0.266667	13.6707
Brunei	Dollar	0.495925	0.634437	32.5244
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020845	0.026667	1.3671
UAE	Dirham	0.212829	0.272272	13.9580
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.279300	65.5833
Argentina	Peso	0.254825	0.325998	16.7123
Brazil	Real	0.361052	0.461894	23.6790
Denmark	Kroner	0.134042	0.171480	8.7909
India	Rupee	0.016843	0.021547	1.1046
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213485	0.273112	14.0011
Mexico	New Peso	0.072103	0.092242	4.7288
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495203	0.633513	32.4770
Norway	Kroner	0.125795	0.160930	8.2501
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012963	0.016584	0.8502
South Africa	Rand	0.115890	0.148258	7.6004
Korea	Won	0.000816	0.001044	0.0535
Sweden	Kroner	0.108834	0.139231	7.1377
Syria	Pound	0.015058	0.019264	0.9876
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023955	0.030646	1.5711
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000364	0.000466	0.0239

Asian crude oil prices rebound after UK foils alleged terror plot

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES REBOUNDED IN Asian hours Friday as investors recovered from fears an alleged terror plot to blow up US-bound planes from Britain would wreak havoc on international carriers and the tourism industry, dealers said.

They said the market was sobering up to the fact that the plot has been scuttled and this should be good news for travel and airlines.

Aviation analysts said the impact on the industry should be limited to the trans-Atlantic route between the UK and the United States.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in September, was at $74.53 dollars a barrel yesterday afternoon, up 53 cents from its close of $74.00 in New York on Thursday.

Brent North Sea crude for September delivery was up 52 cents to $75.80. Both benchmark contracts are trading below their historic highs of above $78 a barrel.

"The market dropped quite a bit yesterday, reacting in a big way to this foiled terrorist attempt due to fear it would impact consumer confidence in travel and jet fuel demand," said Victor Shum, a Singapore-based analyst with energy consultancy Purvin and Gertz.

"I think that was a knee-jerk reaction of the market. Most likely the reaction (Friday) is going to be more muted and therefore we do not see a continuing downward trend."

Markets worldwide were stunned after Britain announced the foiling of the alleged plot to wreak "mass murder" by simultaneous mid-air bombings of passenger aircraft, and imposed heightened security measures.

Investors say British move is good news for travel, airlines

Some 24 people were arrested on Thursday, most of them in London and surrounding areas, over the alleged plan to smuggle seemingly innocuous liquids in hand baggage onto planes bound for the United States that would be assembled into bombs.

Britain immediately raised its security alert to "critical"—the highest of five levels—and imposed severe restrictions on what passengers are allowed to bring into plane cabins.

The new security measures caused widespread delays in boarding aircraft, forcing many airlines to cancel flights.

Shum said only time will tell if consumer confidence in air travel will be dampened.

"But my view is that it's unlikely. After all, this was an attempt that was stopped, meaning that the anti-terror measures put in place by the various governments have worked," he said.

Peter Harbison, executive chairman of the consultancy Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation, said the plot's impact on travel would be limited, although there will be a reduction in flight bookings and some cancellations.

"Passengers today are very resilient and less ready to over-react to what, at this stage, appears to be particularly a UK-US issue," Harbison said in a statement.

"For the Asia-Pacific region, there is immediately a much more limited impact," he said, adding this will involve delays in flights to the UK and the United States.

"We can expect authorities in the Asia Pacific region to also be much more vigilant in security checks, which will also lead to some delays on flights within the region."

Shum of Purvin and Gertz said there are other factors driving oil prices higher, citing the Israeli offensive in Lebanon, Iran's defiance of Western powers' efforts to curb its uranium enrichment programme, potential hurricanes and the disruption of UK energy giant BP's operations in Alaska.

"In this oil market today, there are many moving parts and the markets will remain very volatile reacting to short-term world events. The market still has more upside than downside," Shum said.

Phil Flynn, a trader with US-based Alaron Trading Corp, agreed the thwarting of the plot should assure air travellers in the longer term.

"The sad truth is the world has become accustomed to these threats," he said on his company's website. "If the market senses the attack has been thwarted, then they'll assume the risk of an attack has been diminished." *AFP*

Weak Japan data dent exporters, yen

SINGAPORE—SHARES OF Asian exporters such as auto makers Honda and Nissan fell on Friday on weak Japanese growth data, while some airline shares were under pressure after Britain said it foiled a plot to bomb trans-Atlantic flights.

The dollar added to its overnight gains against the yen after Japan's April-June gross domestic product data came in below market expectations and the Bank of Japan (BoJ) left interest rate unchanged, a month after it raised it for the first time in six years.

Oil prices held above $74 a barrel after a sharp drop on Thursday, while gold prices rebounded after tumbling in New York on news of the airline bomb attack plan.

As widely expected, the BoJ kept the overnight call rate at 0.25 percent.

The Nikkei index fell 0.4 percent. Honda Motor Co. Ltd. fell 1.5 percent and Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. lost 1.1 percent.

Airline shares fell on concern that travellers would cancel their plans in the wake of the foiled plot to blow up US-bound flights from Britain.

Japan Airlines Corp. fell 1.4 percent, All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd. lost more than 1.5 percent and Qantas Airways was off nearly 1 percent.

Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index was flat with investors eyeing next week's earnings for direction.

Korea's main index fell nearly 1 percent while Hong Kong rose about 0.2 percent.

The MSCI ex-Japan index fell a third of a percent.

The yen slipped against the dollar after weak Japanese data reinforced expectations for the Bank of Japan to lift interest rates gradually.

The dollar rose to around 115.50 yen The euro was little changed on the day at 147.50 yen However, given the dollar's own vulnerabilities, the Japan growth data by itself was unlikely to give the U.S. currency a sustained lift against the yen, said Daisuke Uno, market strategist for Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp.

"Since the Fed stopped raising interest rates and the US economy is slowing down, the basic tone is one of dollar selling," he said. "The initial reaction was to sell yen, but I don't think it will continue that long." *Reuters*

DOE to award 2 oil contracts

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY EXPECTS TO award two more petroleum service contracts within the month to two groups given "priority consideration" during the Philippine Energy Contracting Round 2005 (PECR-2) in August last year.

Energy Undersecretary Guillermo Balce said in an interview that service contracts would soon be awarded to the joint venture of Philippine National Oil Co. Exploration Corp. and Nido Petroleum Philippines Pty. Ltd. for an area in Southwest Palawan and the partnership between Ranhill Berhad and Phil-Mal Petroenergy Corp. for a prospect in the Sulu Sea basin.

These contracts still need an authority to sign from Malacañang, he said, as foreign ownership in the consortia exceeded 40 percent.

The DOE recently awarded two service contracts to Filipino firm Burgundy Global Exploration Corp., also one of the companies given priority consideration during the PECR-2, for oil and gas exploration in Northeast and Southeast Palawan.

Service Contract 61 (SC 61) covers 13,560 square kilometers of deep water in offshore Northeast Palawan, adjacent to the relatively unexplored SC 60.

SC 62, on the other hand, covers an area spanning 13,020 square kilometers off East Balabac in the Southeast Sulu Sea near the Malaysian border.

The DOE gave "priority consideration" to the three local and foreign groups based on their financial, legal and technical qualifications to explore and develop their respective areas.

ART VENTURE
A local artisan brings his talent to the fore as he draws on a souvenir plate. His custom-designed plates are popular among residents and visitors of Santa Ana, Cagayan. VILLAMOR VISAYA JR. / INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Big boost expected in local $200-M tuna export industry

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A PROPOSED LAW SEEKING TO PROMOTE traditional hand-line fishing is seen to give the local tuna export industry, which posts yearly sales of $200 million, a big push.

Hand-line fishing refers to the use of a single line and hook in catching fish.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, who chairs the committee on aqua culture and fisheries, said in a statement that House Bill No. 4067—which the Lower House had passed on third reading and is awaiting Senate action—recognized this method as a form of commercial fishing.

Villafuerte said hand-line fishing was not recognized as a form of commercial fishing under the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. This means that vessels engaged in this method of catching tuna are unable to register with the Maritime Industry Authority and, thus, may not be allowed to fish in international waters under the rules of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission.

The lawmaker explained that some 25,000 fishermen based in General Santos City and Saranggani province were engaged in hand-line fishing for high-quality tuna using small motorized boats, mostly under 60 gross tons.

HB 4067 also provides for standards in minimum safety, manning, radio communication and other standards for hand-line fishing boats.

"We are counting on this measure to stimulate the tuna export industry, considering that thousands of hand-line fishermen will, in effect, gain access to the rich grounds of international waters," he said.

SOME 25,000 fishermen based in General Santos City and Saranggani province engage in hand-line fishing for tuna

He added that hand-line fishing now accounted for a big part of the country's annual earnings from tuna exports since the method was the most effective in catching large, mature tuna.

"Aside from that, hand-line fishing is friendlier to the environment and more consistent with resource management," Villafuerte said.

The solon said vital infrastructure and services, including public and private seaports, have been put in place in Gensan considering the vast potential of its fishing industry,

Gensan's fish port provides vessels modern support facilities, including cold storage, a massive ice plant and contact freezers.

The city also has an international airport that allows fresh produce to quickly reach key markets around the world.

SuperFerry cuts rates, hopes for sales increase despite low travel season

THE ABOITIZ company expects a boost in domestic travel with the lower rates

By Riza T. Olchondra

SUPERFERRY HAS ANNOUNCED its Turistang Pinoy promo in support of the September Tourism Month.

The shipping company said it sees the promo as another way of promoting domestic travel and shoring up passenger traffic in response to stiff competition and low sales during the off-peak season.

The upcoming Tourism Month celebrates many tourism related milestones in the Philippines and overseas, including the anniversary of the Philippine Department of Tourism, and the UNWTO-led World Tourism Day on September 27.

The shipping firm said in a statement that "while the reduced SuperFerry rates would enhance more price-based competition in the domestic travel industry, this could also spur consumer spending and economic activity that would largely benefit the local tourism market."

In an earlier interview, SuperFerry assistant vice president for sales and marketing Andre Deyto stressed that the company's promos were "in line with SuperFerry's continuous effort in helping promote tourism by encouraging low-cost travel to different regions."

He also said that the tourism-related promos were a way for the company to tap new market segments in response to the growing competition in domestic travel, especially in the off-season months of June to September.

The SuperFerry Turistang Pinoy promo offers four rates starting at P750 going to Central Visayas (including Coron, Palawan), P950 to Western Visayas, P1250 to Northern Mindanao, and P1500 to Southern Mindanao.

These rates are inclusive of VAT and surcharges.

The seven-day selling period for the Turistang Pinoy promo is from August 15-21 for the September 1-30 sailing schedule.

Free ticket delivery is available in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

For more details, call SuperFerry Hotline 528-7000, or text Superferry SMS (0917) 889-2421.

BOC excise tax . . .

From page B2

in the same period of 2005.

Of the amount, P8.08 billion came from alcohol, which was 11 percent lower than the P9.1 billion collected in the same period last year. The BIR said this was due to lower consumption of alcohol during the period.

Excise tax collection from cigarettes registered a substantial year-on-year increase of 31.2 percent. From only P10.45 billion in the first six months last year, this year's BIR collection reached P13.7 billion in the first semester this year.

Earlier, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government could look at further increasing the excise tax rates on cigarettes and alcohol to further boost government revenues.

Teves said there was still room for further rate increases since the excise tax rates in the Philippines were lower that those in other countries.

Rising metal prices . . .

From page B2

In the meantime, Lepanto affiliate Manila Mining Corp. is also embarking on a 2-for-1 stock rights offer which will raise about P895 million.

The offer price is 1.5 centavos a share. Proceeds from the offering will be used to fund exploration projects and pay debts. A total of P200 million will be earmarked for a drilling program. Manila Mining's operations remained suspended as of today.

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How the bottle 'sabotages' breastfeeding

By Tessa R. Salazar

GIVE THE FEEDING BOTtle in the early hours after birth, and you seriously compromise a baby's chance to successfully breastfeed. The mother is bound to fail (to breastfeed) if not corrected right away by somebody who knows how to support breastfeeding."

This was how Dr. Maria Asuncion A. Silvestre, chair of the breastfeeding committee and member of the board of trustee of the Philippine Society of Newborn Medicine, described how the feeding bottle gave mothers a false sense of security.

Silvestre, who recently spoke to members of the media during a PCP Health Forum, added that the amount of milk from the bottle is also disproportionate to the feeding capacity of the baby. The size of the newly born baby's stomach is like that of a large marble that's not designed to accommodate one to two ounces of milk formula or water from a feeding bottle. So how come the baby seems to calm down while taking the entire contents of a feeding bottle in? When you force the bottle's nipple—or even pacifier—in the baby's mouth, he or she will instinctively start suckling. The baby stops crying, again giving mothers that false sense of security.

After being used to bottle feeding, what comes next is that when the baby is then finally breastfed by the mother, the latter would most likely feel uncomfortable about the process. Silvestre explained that as a result of getting used to the artificial nipple, the baby would develop a different way of sucking the mother's breast—a way that would most likely be painful, would cause soreness or even infection of the mother's nipples.

Falling into the trap

She stressed that if breastfeeding is not stimulated properly, the mother falls into the trap of giving up breastfeeding and resort to feeding milk formulas to the newborn.

Juliet Sio Aguilar, president of the Philippine Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, said there are bound to be mothers who will experience difficulties especially during the first two weeks of breastfeeding, but they should not give up breastfeeding and go straight to formulas just because it's the easy way about it.

Aguilar added that doctors not familiar with the science of lactating mothers can also fall into the trap of recommending milk formulas to newborns.

Silvestre and Sio are one in urging mothers and doctors to allow the natural method of breastfeeding to take its course so that mother's milk will feed the baby during the crucial first few months of his or her life.

Lack of info, counseling

Silvestre lamented the lack of information and breastfeeding counseling. "It's not just about talking to mothers, but more of sitting with them, putting the newborn to the mother's breast, making sure the position and 'latching on' of the baby is proper so that the mother is not hurt unnecessarily by the procedure. It's also about reassuring the mother."

Aguilar cited studies from Naples, Italy involving over 250 expectant mothers and their husbands demonstrating the importance of spousal support. The mothers whose husbands had been given lactation support training actually breastfed longer and exclusively than the same number who were not given any kind of training.

Gifted child

Aguilar stressed breast milk contains all the ingredients to help develop a baby into an intelligent child, the same claims of any milk formula company. She said the breast milk even offers more as it can protect children from infectious diseases and chronic illnesses/disorders like allergies, diabetes and obesity.

If the breast milk comes freely to all lactating mothers, "why do we have to pay for the P43-billion total expenditure on infant formula, and P22 billion on total importation of infant formula per year?" Aguilar quips.

Sixteen percent of Filipino babies were exclusively breastfed by their mothers for the recommended first six months after birth according to the National Demographic and Health Survey of 2003.

Exclusive breastfeeding can decrease the number of under 5-year child deaths by 13 percent according to Lancet 2003 titled "How Many Child Deaths Can We Prevent this Year?"

Health experts stressed that breastfeeding is more cost effective than any single public health intervention.

Sixteen thousand of 82,000 annual child deaths in the Philippines have been attributed to improper infant formula milk feeding.

The revised implementing rules and regulations on the Milk Code recommend that mothers exclusively breastfeed their babies for six months without using plain, glucose or rice water or any breast milk substitutes. After that period, she can start complementary solids using locally available fresh and natural foods while continuing breastfeeding through two years and more.

'The size of it'

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

RECENT NEWS STORIES REPORT that Mariah Carey lost several pounds by going on a diet in which the people around her were only allowed to let her have a bite of any food being served. This way, she said, she could eat what she wanted, though in very controlled portions.

Though the singer's weight loss program may not be considered the next fad diet, with obesity now considered a worldwide health problem, the portion sizes of the foods people consume at each meal have definitely come under scrutiny. Think about the cup of rice that might be served with the meal. It may look like it's just a cup of rice, but in fact the portion may vary from say Restaurant A to Canteen B if each place uses differing brands of coffee cups as a measuring standard instead of a standard measuring cup.

Unit bias

Psychologist Andrew Geier and his colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania call the notion of a portion—regardless of its actual size—being defined as a single unit as "unit bias." They argue if people measure their food intake by these portion units, they may be overeating. To eat less, they simply suggest that a unit consist of a smaller portion.

To test their theory of unit bias as it affects a person's food consumption, they offered a number of snacks in varying portion sizes to several office workers and apartment residents in Philadelphia. Their findings appear in the July issue of the journal Psychological Science.

Experiments

The first experiment took place on the first floor of a busy office building. Candy was always offered in this area and for 2 consecutive weeks Geier et al. took over this task, filling the bowl with either 80 3-gram (g) or twenty 12 g pieces of Tootsie Rolls. On Monday morning for example, they might fill the bowl with the smaller pieces and then retrieve the bowl and count the remainder at the end of the day. The following morning, they would put in the larger pieces and then count the leftovers again at the end of the day.

The next two experiments were set in an apartment lobby that regularly offered snacks to the residents, this time involving pretzels and M&Ms candies. Researchers left either whole or halved pretzels out in a corner of the area for the residents to enjoy over several weeks. The pretzels were brought out at 8 a.m. and the leftovers were counted at 4 p.m.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPH BRAVO

Unlike the pretzel test however, residents of the same apartment building could use either a tablespoon scoop or a quarter-cup scoop to help themselves to a bagful of M&Ms in a bowl placed on the front desk. For 10 days, Geier et al. brought the candy out at 9 a.m. and then retrieved the bowl at 5 p.m. to count the leftovers.

More units of treats

Overall, and perhaps unsurprisingly, Geier et al. found that people took more units of treats offered when the larger portions were left out. The researchers were unable to determine whether or not people wanted the smaller portions on large-portion days and possibly shared with others in order to get the size piece they wanted.

Time and location may have also been a factor with regard to the apartment building experiments: if the pretzels had been laid out on the front desk where everyone could see what people were taking, their behaviors might have been different. Also the quantities consumed for both snacks might have been different since some people may have been leaving for work when the pretzels were around and may have been long gone before the candy was set out.

Geier et al.'s experiments on unit bias are an intriguing beginning and demand further studies to determine if this theory can be applied to other fields besides food. It also suggests the need to come up with and promote definitions for each "unit." That way, those wishing to emulate Mariah Carey's diet plan might not have to recruit assistants to stay on track and instead have predefined serving sizes—i.e., how big a bite is for the singer—as a guide.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Science Awards galore

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST JULY, MANDATED BY LAW AS National Science and Technology Month, the best researchers, books and papers were recognized at the premier gathering of the country's scientists at the Manila Hotel.

From different fields

Ten Outstanding Young Scientists hail from different fields. Ma. Genaleen Diaz of the Institute of Biological Sciences at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), studies coconut and macapuno genes, which may benefit our health, economy and environment. Grecebio Jonathan Alejandro of the Research Center for the Natural Sciences at the University of Sto. Tomas classifies numerous species and genuses of the coffee family, invaluable for selecting those possible medicinal, ornamental or industrial value.

Leonora Cañizares-Fernandez of the Department of Medicine at UP Manila has initiated successful programs on stopping smoking and rehabilitating patients with lung disease. Her colleague Jericho Thaddeus Luna pioneers minimally invasive surgical methods to help patients with ovarian or cervical cancer, and studies infants of mothers exposed to chemotherapy in pregnancy.

Rollin Tabuena of the Department of Internal Medicine at Iloilo Mission Hospital and West Visayas State University Hospital delves into pulmonary medicine, specifically early prevention and cure of respiratory diseases.

From UP Diliman

Half of the awardees come from UP Diliman (UPD): Arturo Lluisma of the Marine Science Institute investigates seaweed biology and biotechnology, which may lead to better production and farming of this important resource.

Windell Rivera of the Institutes of Biology and Natural Sciences Research specializes in molecular microbiology and immunology, especially studying protozoan parasites which endanger human health. Jose Ernie Lope of the Department of Mathematics focuses on theoretical and applied partial differential equations, some with implications to curvature flow and coral reef cover.

Maricor Soriano of the National Institute of Physics develops various imaging techniques in collaboration with hospitals, computer companies, marine scientists and physical therapists for diverse purposes. Soriano's colleague Vincent Ricardo Daria works in optical technology and microscopy, potentially useful not just for our society but also for the world.

Molecular biologist Ma. Corazon de Ungria (UPD) was awarded the Third World Academy of Sciences Prize. Mathematician Julius Basilla (UPD), physicist Carlo Mar Blanca (UPD), and biologist Elizabeth Tenorio of the Ateneo de Manila University won the NAST-DuPont Talent Search for Young Scientists, with medical doctor Raul Destura (UPM) and marine scientist Ma. Vivian Grageda (UPLB) given special citations. Gisela Concepcion's marine science team (UPD) wrote a paper deemed the best research in tropical medicine.

Other winners

Congratulations also go to outstanding book authors and editors National Scientist Benito Vergara for "Philippine Rice Centennial," Gavino Trono Jr. for "Field Guide and Atlas of the Seaweed Resources of the Philippines," Beatrice Guevarra for "A Guide Book to Plant Screening" and Marilyn Lorenzo for "Philippine Health Care Factbook Volume 1."

Winners of best papers include Antonio Barroga, Rajeev Pradhan, Hisaya Tabioka, Leni Quirit, Elma Llaguno, Jimmy Viloria, Dennis Merino, Raymond Tan, Alvin Culaba, Delia Ongtengco, Leilani Baltazar, Roberta Santiago, Ronald Matias, Cecilia Isaac and Alexander Tuazon.

E-mail the author at bless book@yahoo.com.

Surging to the forefront of Asia-Pacific's cancer research

By Charles E. Buban

LAST YEAR, SOME 7.6 MILLION PEOPLE worldwide died of cancer and the World Health Organization estimates that in the next 10 years another 84 million more will die if action is not taken.

With such bleak outlook, the country's hospitals and primary care institutions believe it is becoming more critical these days to improve diagnosis—aside from the treatment—of any type of cancer as this could literally make the difference between life and death.

"Because cancer is the second most common noninfectious and nontraumatic cause of death here and around the world, an improved diagnosis for any type of cancer becomes critical for assuring that the right treatment is selected," said University of Santo Tomas Hospital president and CEO Cenon Alfonso during the opening of the hospital's Benavides Cancer Institute.

Named after the university's founder and third Archbishop of Manila, Msgr. Miguel de Benavides, O.P., the institute is set to play a major role in battling cancer in Asia, Dr. Alfonso said.

P350-M facility

"The P350-million facility will propel USTH to the forefront of cancer treatment and research in the Asia-Pacific region. The institute will employ a multimodal, or multiequipment approach and multi-disciplinary treatment, fielding the latest advances in cancer therapy," Alfonso said.

As part of the hospital's five-year expansion and modernization program, the institute beefed up its existing advanced medical facilities with two more: an endoscopic ultrasound (with fine needle aspiration, linear accelerator, collimator and simulator capabilities) and radio frequency ablation.

According to Alfonso, the institute is the only one in the country capable of performing these two procedures.

An EUS combines an ultrasound processor on the tip of an endoscope, allowing for improved ultrasound imaging of the gastrointestinal tract and the abdominal organs adjacent to it.

Less second-guessing

"This means less second-guessing as this procedure is superior to most types of diagnosis. An EUS is used to examine the lining and walls of the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract and nearby organs such as the pancreas and gall bladder," Alfonso explained.

When combined with fine needle aspiration, an EUS becomes a state-of-the-art and minimally invasive alternative to exploratory surgery to remove tissue samples from abdominal and other organs.

Another minimally invasive treatment offered at the institute is the radio frequency ablation that can be used to treat patients for liver and kidney tumors and bone cancer pain.

"The RFA is a minimally invasive technique that uses heat to destroy tumors. Using computerized tomography scan or ultrasound guidance, a small needle electrode is placed directly into the tumor. The electrode's high frequency radio waves create intense heat, killing cancerous cells in the process," Alfonso explained.

Highly trained

It takes highly specialized training to perform an EUS or RFA and Alfonso is confident USTH's team of specialists trained in Stanford and Milan is more than capable of performing such procedures successfully.

He said the accurate detection of early stage cancer is critical to improve patient care by developing cancer specific interventions to avert further spread of cancer or its subsequent development into an advanced stage.

"The unique setting of the hospital provides an opportunity and venue for intense discussion and evaluation of issues regarding cancer as well as advancement of cancer research through collaborations with various centers elsewhere in the world," Alfonso said.

He said that with these recent developments, USTH continues its rich tradition of visionary medical practice throughout the centuries. As the first teaching hospital established in the country, Alfonso said it is only fitting for USTH to lead the way in bringing the country's medical practice to the next level.

"By 2010, we envision USTH to be Asia-Pacific's leading center for multidisciplinary approach in cancer management as well as vascular care, ophthalmology care, organ transplantation and endocrine and metabolic medicine," he said.

Rail Europe woos Filipinos to come aboard

HAVE PASS, WILL TRAVEL. RAIL EUROPE, THE only name in memorable train travel across France, Switzerland, Great Britain and other great European destinations, would want just that for travelers worldwide. Grab a ticket and hop aboard.

Rail Europe offers high-speed trains, scenic trains, regional trains and night trains, as well as rail passes to hundreds of favorite European destinations. If the terms Swiss Pass and multi-country Eurail Pass ring a bell, then you know we're talking Rail Europe.

Xavier Theret, sales director for Rail Europe 4A (RE 4A), is on the Manila leg of his Asian trip to strengthen market awareness on European rail travel. RE 4A is responsible for Rail Europe's Southeast Asian, Australasian, South American, African and Middle East markets. Established just 10 years ago, the company is fast growing as the uniqueness of seeing Europe by train steadily rises.

"Asians definitely like Switzerland, as travelers can travel everywhere with just a single pass (the Swiss Pass), that is to say on trains, buses, lake steamers and on the public transportation of many cities," he explains. "In conjunction with the Swiss Pass, there are options to visit Mount Titlis, Mount Pilatus, and Schilthorn/Piz Gloria, all of which give beautiful panoramic mountain views. It is a very successful concept in Asia."

Locally, Rail Europe is represented by American Express Adventure International Tours Inc (Amex-Aiti). Equipped with Euronet terminals, Rail Europe's online booking and reservation system, the agency ensures only the best train travel experience for passengers.

They can check availability in real-time and do the booking online. Lastly, our clients will depart from the Philippines with their rail tickets already in hand. They won't have to queue at the counters in the train stations. It will be a stress-free and enjoyable journey for them all the way," explains Susielou Dela Rama, GM of Amex-Aiti.

Theret says local market potential is huge as Filipinos begin to realize the unique pleasures of seeing the continent by train. For one, it's the fastest way from one city center to another. Ultra-fast trains like TGV connect over 100 cities across France, aside from holding the world land speed record of 515.3 km/h. The Eurostar from Paris to London runs through the English Channel Tunnel in just 20 minutes of the entire 57.45-km journey.

"If you factor in the non-flight times involved in taking planes, taking the train really comes out much faster," Theret says. "The modern railway traveler is keen on optimizing his time by combining high speed trains to travel long distances and scenic trains to explore the heart of a region."

Scenic trains are especially popular for travel across Switzerland, with its breathtaking view of the countryside. Regional or intercity trains are recommended for exploring a specific country's sights and culture. Night trains are the time-savers of any European trip as they let passengers comfortably sleep off the journey in spacious bunk beds or luxurious coaches, as the case may be. Travelers then arrive at their destination refreshed from a good night's sleep. Rail travel is about enjoying the ride as well as the destination.

Theret notes that rail travel has become the preferred choice especially of repeat visitors to Europe. "They are a bit more adventurous than during their previous trip and wish to better get to know Europe, its peoples, habits, cultures, etc.," he says. These visitors are usually FITs or fully independent travelers not belonging to tour groups.

These FITs haveg also become aware of the benefits of booking over Amex-Aiti than any other means. As Rail Europe's exclusive GSA, Amex-Aiti offers the convenience, affordability and flexibility in bookings not available from other sources.

UNILAB MEDICAL MISSION IN BATANGAS

United Laboratories Inc (Unilab) the country's leading pharmaceutical company, supported the medical mission of the newly inaugurated Metropolitan Medical Center in Nasugbu, Batangas last July 21. Unilab provided the medicines to the medical mission through its Hospital-Industrial Management Group (HIMG). The Metropolitan Medical Center is a 150-bed facility and the only one of its kind in the area. It is a branch of the Metropolitan Medical Center in Masangkay, Manila. Shown in photo are (from left) Unilab hospital business officers Lito de Castro and Dowie Teano and Unilab vice president for HIMG Rhais Gamboa.

RMJ BLESSING CEREMONIES

Photo shows the blessing ceremonies of Recyclemaster Japan Traders Inc which recently opened last July 28. Shown are (standing from left) Shinji Maruta, CEO of RMJ; Dante Pacheco, Punong Barangay of Marcelo Green Parañaque, and Barangay Captain of BF Parañaque Florencia Amurao.

BITS Clips

3 for P100 BK promo

BURGER KING PRESENTS the 3 for P100 promo. There are five 3 for P100 combinations you can choose from. You can grab three tray boxes of 5-pc Chicken Tenders with your barkada, mix them all up and dunk them in mayo, barbeque or sweet chili sauce. For the perfect merienda, there's also the three Chicken Tenders Sandwiches, also available for only P100. If you are a fish fiend, you can go for the 3 for P100 Big Fish sandwiches. If you want to mix it up a bit, you can choose this combination instead: a Chicken Tenders Sandwich, a Big Fish Sandwich and the perfect-to-munch on 5-pc. Chicken Tenders. Apart from those 4 combinations, Burger King also has the Have It Your Way coupon. The HIYW coupon allows you the freedom to pick the item of your choice, present to cashier and get your own combination for only P100. To sweeten this deal even more, this offer is made available for drive-thru and take-out apart from dine-in. Hurry, offer may be redeemed between 10 to 11:30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. in any Burger King restaurant.

Mang Inasal grows stronger

MANG INASAL, THE PHENOMENAL BARBEQUE fast food chain from Visayas, continues to grow in popularity with Metro Manila Food lovers, especially as new braches are soon to open at SM Mall of Asia, Robinsons Terraza Dasma - Cavite, SM Bicutan and Robinsons Novaliches Nova Stop. Now more and more Filipinos can enjoy the uniquely delectable taste that is a product of quality ingredients and the best kept secret marinade this side of the country. No wonder hungry crowds flock in droves to Mang Inasal's Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas and Davao daily. But Metro Manila folks need not wait too long. Mang Inasal Branches are currently satisfying barbeque fans at Harbor Square CCP-Complex, Metropolis Mall-Alabang and SM City Sta. Rosa Laguna. For more inquiries about Mang Inasal, as well as franchising opportunities, visit its website at www.manginasal.com.

GNLD celebrates 11th year

GNLD INTERNATIONAL, A WORLDWIDE LEADER IN the international health and wellness industry celebrating 11 years of success in the Philippines, graces the cover of Fantastic Asia Lifestyle Magazine's maiden issue - a publication of Powerhaus Media Professionals - which hits the metropolis this August. GNLD's "GR2 Control Weight Loss Program", designed to provide the average adult with stabilized blood glucose levels to maintain high energy levels and avoid hyper- and hypoglycemia throughout the day, is a scientifically-proven program helping individuals lose weight while improving their overall health, enabling the body to burn fat for fuel instead of storing, having the individual enjoy an abundance of different foods while on the program. GNLD International conducts various health seminars, with business opportunity meetings, at its various centers nationwide. For more information, call 812-2321.

SuperFerry promo

LEADING SHIPPING COMPANY SUPERFERRY announces its Turistang Pinoy promo in support of the September Tourism Month. The SuperFerry Turistang Pinoy promo offers four rates starting at P750 going to Central Visayas (including Coron, Palawan), P950 going to Western Visayas, P1250 going to Northern Mindanao, and P1500 going to Southern Mindanao. These rates are inclusive of VAT and surcharge. The 7-day selling period for the Turistang Pinoy promo is from Aug. 15-21, for the Sept. 1-30 sailing schedule. Free ticket delivery is available for Metro Manila and Metro Cebu. For more details, call SuperFerry Hotline 528-7000, or text SuperFerry SMS (0917) 889-2421.

Bull Fighter goes clubbing

BULL FIGHTER ENERGY DRINK GOES INTO CLUB mode as it sponsors Godskitchen Global Dance by Big Fish on Aug. 19 at the World Trade Center. Godskitchen is one of the world's leading dance music event organizers. Since its launch at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati five years ago, Godskitchen has attracted all the energetic crowds, starting with the college groups to the young urban professionals all the way to the mature, hip and sexy. For this edition, Godskitchen Global Dance is presenting world-renowned Johnboy Lee with DJ Paul Thomas. As everybody gets down on the dancefloor and lets loose, Bull Fighter will provide the much-needed energy booster to let clubbers party all night long. Bull Fighter contains a chain of amino acids which helps improve stamina, promotes muscle build-up, aids in the regeneration of tired muscles and packed with vitamin C, which increases immunity against sickness. For tickets and VIP reservation contact: 634-2762, 634-8238 or www.bigfishmanila.com

ProductFILES

Breathtaking seaside condo living at Amara en Terrazas

THE MOST COVETED OCEAN-VIEW APARTMENTS in the country, each of which to be endowed with an uncommon everyday spectacle - a view of the breathtaking China Sea - will soon rise within the plush Terrazas de Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas via the soon-to-rise Amara en Terrazas. Landco Pacific Corp combines the sophistication of a posh luxury condominium and the calm, cool and breezy lifestyle of a resort to set the standard in residential resort developments, a first in the country. Individuals and families looking for a property south of Manila should put this on top of their list as no other development like it could ever come by. Just imagine two structures with a total of only 95 units, each of which to have a view of the immaculate South China Sea, no matter where the unit is located. Which means each unit owner will have his or her own unique take of the South China Sea in all its picturesque magnificence. And this amid the flow of greens that the existing landscape is so abundantly endowed with. These structures will be nestled on 1.6 hectares of rolling terrain that stretches up to 75 meters above sea level. Taking inspiration from Spanish-Mediterranean design elements, developers will combine old world elegance with its trappings of grand living, but tamed by the infusion of Asian elements that make the experience a perfect balance of the sophistication of the West and warmth of the East. And taking advantage of its location, developers will maximize the natural setting via trellised bridges, water features and tropical landscaping. Think large windows, balconies, extended eaves but complemented by details that are Asian in design. Landco Pacific Corp is a multi-product developer of high quality residential resorts, leisure farms, residential developments, shopping centers and CBD's, and memorial parks. The company continues to provide superior value in its developments and is widely recognized as a benchmark for innovative and outstanding lifestyle products that revolutionize the way we live. For more information on Amara en Terrazas, visit its website www.landcopacific.com or email global-sales@landcopacific.com.

FILINVEST LAUNCHES SOUTH STATION CENTER

A redefined bargain shopping experience is in store for southern commuters as Filinvest Alabang Inc (FAI) recently broke ground for a new retail development. The bargain center is a major component of South Station, envisioned to become a one-stop transport and regional shopping center in Southern Metro Manila. The first phase of the bargain center will have around 400 units selling a diverse array of merchandise. South Station is conveniently located along Alabang-Zapote Road in Filinvest Corporate City. For lease inquiries please call 809-5428 or e-mail southstation@filinvestcorpcity.com. Present during the ground-breaking ceremony were (from left) architect Robert Carag Ong - principal of Robert Carag Ong Associates, FAI executive vice president Josephine Gotianun Yap, FAI project team head Anton Hechanova, and FAI vice president Michael Gotianun.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publications, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Anita C. Abalgar	Wright, W. Samar	Arturo Abalgar SS#03-2260521-9	July 1, 2006
2)	Corazon Quiambao Rosita Agno Fernando Agno Bobby Agno	Camba, Arayat, Pampanga	Benjamin L. Agno SS#03-1520278-4	April 14, 2005
3)	Rogelio Kinney	Unknown	Lydia N. Alba SS#03-2166249-9	May 18, 2006
4)	Felix Baquero	Llog Llog, Tabango, Leyte	Casimero Baquero SS#33-1148556-0	January 12, 2006
5)	Juan Agit Besas, Jr.	Manila	Rhande Luzon Besas SS#06-1737853-6	June 2, 2006
6)	Zenaida H. Garcia	257 Rodriguez St., Malabon, Rizal	Simeon Paloma Buot, Jr. SS#03-4017648-7	November 12, 2003
7)	Melanie Salmon	Bacolod City, Negros Occidental	Eddie Caromayan SS#07-1371531-0	October 1, 2005
8)	Lucena Delector Luisa Delector	Unknown	Jose C. Delector, Jr. SS#07-0414980-1	November 27, 2005
9)	Lourdes B. Lacson	1749 Taft Ave., Pasay	Florencio Delos Reyes SS#03-1516244-2	February 1, 2004
10)	Patricia Diega	Unknown	Paterno Diega SS#07-0539395-7	December 9, 2003
11)	Rosalina Esguerra	63 C. Balingasa St., Q.C.	Lorenzo Esguerra, Jr. SS#03-3355528-0	March 31, 2006
12)	Merlyn & Myra Gabutero	Unknown	Bonifacio F. Gabutero SS#03-2107125-5	March 6, 1996
13)	Victoria B. Gallo	15A Basilio St., Acacia, Mal., M.M.	Godofredo Gallo SS#03-2228368-6	February 7, 2006
14)	Marilou, Felix, Manuel Jr., Jesus, Lodivina, Perlita and Nestor Laguna	Unknown	Manuel Laguna SS#03-2813771-0	June 20, 1999
15)	Lalyn E. Lumingkit	Maconacon, Isabela	Jose M. Lumingkit SS#08-0407622-7	February 25, 2006
16)	Luis Maniegos	Unknown	Pedro A. Maniegos SS#03-0318823-4	July 4, 2002
17)	Evelina Sama	Unknown	Anacleto Ocson SS#04-0024218-3	April 19, 2006
18)	Lucia Canoy	Cagbuhangin, Ormoc City	Teodoro Oliverio SS#06-0506997-0	June 23, 2006
19)	Luzviminda Jusay	Leyte	Dexter Ortega SS#33-6496161-7	September 5, 2005
20)	Coney Palacio	Mahalli, Merida, Leyte	Arturo Palacio SS#33-2757121-9	March 14, 2006
21)	Joeber Punay Joedith Punay	Unknown	Joseph Y. Punay SS#06-0156721-4	December 14, 2004
22)	Anita Timpug	Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	Romulo Rementilla SS#03-2449773-9	May 14, 2006
23)	Eduardo Baracena	Antipolo Old, Nabua, Cam. Sur	Susan R. Reosa SS#05-0869175-9	March 22, 2006
24)	Julito Pranco	Unknown	Lolita M. Rivero SS#33-0698466-5	May 3, 2006
25)	Arcadia Rubante	206 Lakandula St., Tondo, Mla.	Lino Rubante SS#03-0805445-7	November 29, 2004
26)	Zenaida Santos Sales	Unknown	Romeo M. Sales SS#03-0910616-8	April 29, 2006
27)	Isidra V. Sawal	Unknown	Anacleto Sawal, Jr. SS#05-0058943-2	January 31, 2006
28)	Purita Belen	Unknown	Edgardo Tijing SS#03-6253228-7	April 8, 2006
29)	Timoteo Cabarles Tolentino, Jr.	Unknown	Lucia Q. Tolentino SS#04-0304959-0	September 14, 2005
30)	Ma. Theresa Elva Rosco	Makati City	Francisco M. Valles, Jr. SS#33-4586212-0	March 15, 2006

- Nothing follows -

(PDI - Aug. 12, 2006)

PNOC
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

INVITATION TO BID AND TO SUBMIT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders/offerors to bid/negotiate for the SALE/LEASE/JOINT VENTURE on an "as-is where-is" basis of the following properties:

Location of Property	Area (sq.m.)	Floor Price (PhP) Total	
I. FIRST OFFERING – SALE			
1. Cutcut, Angeles City, Pampanga	324	875,000	
2. Sto. Domingo II, Capas, Tarlac [a]	3,751	4,329,000	
3. San Jose, Mindoro Occidental [b]	10,000	3,000,000	
4. Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite	614	4,912,000	
5. Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan	1,394	4,321,000	
6. San Roque, Bauan, Batangas	1,202	3,606,000	
7. North Reclamation Area, Cebu City [c]	1,026	32,250,000	
8. Kasambagan, Cebu City [d]	597	3,014,000	
9. Kasambagan, Cebu City [e]	1,414	6,991,000	
II. FIRST OFFERING – SALE or LEASE			
		Sale (PhP)	Lease (PhP)
Maestrang Kikay, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	449	1,347,000	4,500/mo 53,880/yr.
III. NEGOTIATED SALE			
1. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	4,470	670,500	
2. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	6,529	979,350	
3. Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City [a]	2,705	4,719,000	
4. Salapungan, Tarlac City [f]	1,185	2,918,000	
5. Talomo, Davao City	421	1,263,000	
6. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan [g]	231	231,000	
7. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	315	315,000	
8. Sto. Niño, Baliuag, Bulacan	356	356,000	
9. Kayumanggi, Lipa City, Batangas	625	850,000	
10. Tagbilaran, Bohol	1,388	1,388,000	
11. Tagbilaran, Bohol	4,367	5,240,400	
12. Andal-Aliño, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	396	356,000	
13. Gogon, Legazpi City	8,598	12,897,000	
IV. NEGOTIATED LEASE			
Brgy. Bolo, Bauan, Batangas	8,962	120,400/mo	1,445,000/yr.
V. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE			
		Sale (PhP)	Lease (PhP)
1. Alangan, Limay, Bataan [h] Contiguous vacant lots with fence; ideal for industrial, residential subdivision and/or agricultural development	584,147	67,482,000	84,353/mo. 1,012,000/yr
2. PNOC Housing Compound in Bolo, Bauan, Batangas with existing 40 housing units, clubhouse, guesthouse located along a national road; ideal for industrial, commercial and/or residential development. *This Property is also open for Joint Venture Development through public bidding*	59,323	128,684,000	475,768/mo 5,709,206/yr

[a] with informal dwellers
[b] with informal dwellers, 615.76 sq.m. portion leased to a private entity; also, a 540 sq.m. portion was traversed by a Brgy. Road
[c] 169 sq.m. portion affected by a provincial road project; also, a 26.5 portion is subject of a civil case under lease agreement with a private entity
[d] with existing easement (area: 49 sq.m.)
[e] with existing easement (area: 142.91 sq.m.)
[f] net of 32 sq.m. portion which was sold to the owner of adjacent lot

Bid forms, Letter of Intent to Negotiate, Bidding/Negotiation Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured after payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 during office hours of **August 14-29, 2006; Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm** from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Estate Management Department, PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The pre-bidding conference and the public bidding shall be conducted on **August 30, 2006 (2:00pm)** and **September 13, 2006 (2:15pm)**, respectively, at the G/F PNOC Bldg. 6

For parties interested to bid for the **Joint Venture of PNOC Bauan Housing**, schedule of activities are as follows: 1) Submission of Letter of Intent to apply for eligibility (Aug 14-21, 8am to 5pm); 2) Submission of eligibility documents (Aug. 22-Sept. 12, 8am to 5pm); 3) Opening of eligibility documents (Sept. 13, 2:15pm); 4) Eligibility check, issuance of Notice of Eligibility and bid documents to eligible bidders after payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 (Sept. 14-26, 8am to 5pm); 5) Pre-bid conference for all eligible bidders **(Sept. 27, 2pm)**; 6) Dropping of bids (Oct. 11, 8am to 2pm); and 7) Opening of bids **(Oct. 11, 2:15pm)** at the above address.

Award of the sale/lease/joint venture of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID/ OFFER** received from the bidders/offerors

For properties for negotiation (under items III, IV and V), offerors shall submit their Letter of Intent to PNOC starting the first working day after the first publication of this Notice and thereafter.

The Bidder/Offeror further acknowledges that he/she has been given every opportunity to investigate, inspect and verify the properties offered for sale/lease/joint venture to ascertain the actual conditions thereof as well as the status of the titles. The sale/lease/joint venture of the properties shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis and the winning bidder/offeror shall undertake the responsibility to acquire and maintain peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property without seeking the assistance of PNOC. If for any reason the above-mentioned dates are declared non-working holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids/offers or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids/offers or portions thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 8126071 or 8126209 loc. 2302 or 2308 or cellphone no. 0917-8405994.

ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI--Aug. 12, 2006)

A Message of Thanks

I AND THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

ATTY. EUGENIA MARFORI CELI

who peacefully joined her GOD

and her beloved husband

ALFREDO M. CELI

on July 20, 2006 my father's birthday,

sincerely express our thanks and gratitude

to all those who offered prayers and masses,

sent flowers, consoled and comforted

us in our hour of bereavement.

I know that

Pappy and **Mommy**

are back together

once more.

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." **John 11:25-26**

CONSUELO "CHOLLY" ROSALES ASUNCION-ANTONIO, MSc.

UST Pharmacy Class '54 (Board Topnotcher)
Master of Science in Pharmacy (Iowa State University)
First Chief Pharmacist, Cardinal Santos Medical Center
Board of Examiner (Pharmacy), PRC
Past President, UST Pharmacy Alumni Association
Past President, Philippine Society of Hospital Pharmacists
Past President, Manila Sunshine City Lioness Club
Devoted Wife, Mother and Grandmother

Of Bulan, Sorsogon and White Plains, Q.C.

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on 7 August 2006 at the age of 74.

Her bereaved husband **Silvino P. Antonio, Jr.**; her children **Bambi & Vic, Annie, Beth, Joey & Aura**; her grandchildren **Michelle, Leia, Andrew, Chrissy, Bianca, Margarita & Nina**; her brothers **Roberto** (†), **Jake**; her sisters **Sr. Natividad, D.C., Iluminada, Ophelia** (†), **Sr. Marissa, D.C.** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Cremation schedule at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina will be on Saturday, 12 August 2006 at 3 p.m. after the **FUNERAL MASS AT 12 NOON** at the Christ the King Memorial Chapel, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pag-IBIG grants P71B for workers' housing under GMA

THE PAG-IBIG FUND, THE BIGGEST SINGLE housing loan provider, has released a total of P71.07 billion in home loans for Filipino workers from 2001 to June 2006, covering 232, 675 housing units.

More than two-thirds or 78 percent of the loan release came from end-user financing which amounted to P56.08 billion — P10.46 billion and P45.62 billion for socialized and low cost housing, respectively, financing a total of 156, 731 units.

Meanwhile, funding for institutional or loans of developers reached P14.99 billion equivalent to 75,944 units.

From 2001 to 2005, housing loan availments have increased by an unparalleled average of 36 percent per year.

Lawyer Romero F.S. Quimbo, president and CEO of the Fund, is optimistic that with the recent implementation of its new and more liberal housing loan program, as well as the introduction of an aggressive receivables financing scheme, the Fund will have a greater impact on the Philippine mortgage system.

With the growth in shelter financing, the Fund has played a vital role in pump-priming the economy. The Fund has brought about over P930 billion to the national economy through additional business activities from 2002 to 2005 with housing's multiplier effect of 16.61 in the economy. The government corporation has also helped create more than one million jobs since 2002. Over the past five years, with its ever-growing annual net income, the Pag-IBIG Fund has become one of the most profitable Philippine corporations.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will obtain mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Matthew 5:7&8

In Loving Memory
on the 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of our Beloved

ENGR. MARCELINO R. ABESAMIS

DEC. 27, 1952 - AUG. 12, 2005

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS WILL BE OFFERED TODAY, AUG. 12, 2006, AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

St. Peter's Parish, Commonwealth, Q.C.	6:00 AM
Holy Family Chapel, Filinvest 1, Q.C.	7:00 AM/7:00 PM
Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Q.C.	7:00 AM
Christ the King Parish, E. Rodriguez, Q.C.	6:00 PM
Cathedral Shrine of the Good Shepherd, QC	7:00 PM

His loving wife **Cora**, son **Marco**, grandchildren, brother **Greg** & family, sisters **Grace**, **Stella**, and **Aileen** & their families, would like to thank all their relatives, friends, and neighbors for always remembering Mar in their prayers.

In Loving Memory
on the 29th Death Anniversary
of our Beloved Dad

JUAN P. GARCIA

who peacefully joined our Creator on August 12, 1977

Holy Masses for his eternal peace and happiness will be offered at the following churches:

- **KENRAM (Phils.) Inc. Chapel** *Isulan, S.K.* — 5:00 A.M.
- **Parish of Sts. Peter & Paul** *Lagao, Gen. Santos City* — 5:30 A.M.
- **Most Holy Redeemer Parish** *Bnxton Hill, Q.C.* — 6:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.
- **Mount Carmel Monastery** *Lipa City* — 6:00 A.M.
- **The Chapel of Saint Joseph** *Meralco Center, Pasig City* — 7:10 A.M.
- **Nat'l. Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary** *Sto. Domingo* — 12:15 P.M.
- **Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace** *EDSA, Mandaluyong* — 12:15 P.M.

We, the members of Juan Garcia's family, request all his loved ones, relatives, friends and pious readers to join us in prayers for Dad.

VICTOR LUNA PUERTOLLANO

Joined his Lord & Saviour on August 10, 2006 at the age of 75.

He is survived by his wife **Fe**; son **Jess**; daughter **Jovic**; sisters **Natividad, Rosa, Carmen** & **Lulu**; brothers **Pete** & **Cesar**.

Viewing will be held in **Loyola Chapel, Edsa Guadalupe**. On August 12, 2006, a memorial service will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Loyola Chapel.

Interment will be on **Sunday, August 13, 2006, 10:00 a.m.** at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Carmen "Ameng" Reyes Perfecto

Born on April 17, 1926

Peacefully returned to her Maker, surrounded by her loved ones at 5:50 in the afternoon on Thursday, August 10, 2006.

She is survived by her children, **Ignacio, Francis, John, Susan, Bam, Carmen, Tiny**, and **Martin** and her children-in-law **Connie, Maritess, Dante**, and **Gerry** and her grandchildren **Oliver, Aisha, Noah, Micki, Sarah, Trissy, Anna, Kippy, Dani, Joanna**, and **Angelo**

She will be waked at the St. Ignatius Village Chapel from Friday, August 11 until Sunday, August 13. Her ashes will be interred at the crypt of the Christ the King Parish Church in Green Meadows Subdivision after the 10:00 a.m Mass at the St. Ignatius Village Chapel on Sunday, August 13.

Please omit flowers.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

CENTURY'S CULINARY MEET SEMIFINALS

16 talented and creative food enthusiasts were declared semifinalists for the Century Tuna Culinary Meet and will compete for the finals to be held at the Market! Market! On Aug. 12 and 13. The finalists were chosen via a recipe test of an original classic Filipino dish they submitted. During the recipe test held at the Century Culinary Kitchen in Pasig City, the judges selected four finalists each for the amateur, student and professional categories coming from among top hotels, restaurants, hotel and restaurant management colleges and culinary schools in Metro Manila. The recipe must have used pre-selected Century Tuna products as well as one of the following sponsors' products as ingredient: Angel Evaporated Filled Milk, Cream Cornstarch and All Purpose Flour, Good Life oriental sauces, Ideal Premium Spaghetti and Macaroni, Jolly canned vegetables and soups. Moulinex and Ariston are also sponsors of the event. Now on its 4th year, the Century Tuna Culinary Meet encourages the use of protein-rich tuna in simple yet healthy everyday fare for the family.

A BIG AND EXPANDING FOOD COMPANY URGENTLY NEEDS

2-ACCOUNTING/CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF

Qualifications:
- Female
- 21-26 years old
- Graduate of any business course
- Newly graduate may apply

Send to: U.P. P.O. Box 15, Diliman QUEZON CITY 1101
- comprehensive resumé
- records of grades
- 2x2 or 1x1 ID picture

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

1997 Toyota Corona / WAT-228
2002 Chevrolet Suburban / YGB-111

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc./ Dick Cariño. Tel. # 878-54-57

R.A. 9048 Form 8.1

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Misamis Oriental
Municipality: NAAWAN

NOTICE OF POSTING

The public is hereby notified that Jocelyn Nera Gorospe has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from "Joseline-Ofelia" to "JOCELYN" in the certificate of live birth of Joseline-Ofelia N. Nera hearing Registry Number 2351.

Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition may, within ten (10) calendar days, file his/her written opposition with this Office.

Date: 25th of July 2006

(Sgd.) ANN R. DADOLE
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI–Aug. 5 & 12, 2006)

ERRATUM

In the **Invitation to Bid for the Sale of Two (2) units helicopters of NFA** published last July 31 & August 6, 2006, **bid security to be posted by prospective offerors is ten percent (10%) of the total amount of his/her bid offer** and NOT one percent (1%) as published.

Our apologies.

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Tel# 889-7956

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CAR TIRES - BATTERIES
CREDIT CARDS HONORED
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SERVICE ADVISORS 9201794
36 WEST AVE., 77 VIS. AVE., QC.

Jack Canfield's Mega Guru event in Manila

FROM MAKING ENDS MEET AS A TEACHER, TO becoming a best-selling author with a Guinness world record, Jack Canfield knows what it takes to succeed. Jack Canfield is the founder and co-creator of the wildly popular book series, Chicken Soup for the Soul, as well as the author of a slew of other best-selling titles such as "Dare to Win", "Self-Esteem and Peak Performance", "The Power of Focus" and what is touted as the best book on personal development, "The Success Principles".

He is coming to Manila on Oct. 2 for his ITD-Mega Guru Event: Personal Excellence and Organizational Success. Jack will talk about fundamentals from "The Success Principles" as well as give more simple and straightforward advice on how to get from where you are, to where you want to be.

The ITD-Canfield Mega Guru event will be held on Oct. 2 at the Grand Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Galleria Hotel. Register now and avail of special early bird rates. For details, call ITD Consulting at 887-7428 or email itdmanila@itd.com.my.

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Department of Environment and Natural Resources
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 9265233; +632 4333446
Telefax Nos. +632 9265234; +632 4333444

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Supply and Installation of Ticketing and Access System for the Pasig River Ferry Stations

The PRRC, through the General Appropriations Act of 2006 intends to apply the sum of **Eighteen Million Nine Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Two Hundred And 00/100 Pesos (Php 18,925,200.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Supply and Installation of Ticketing and Access System for the Pasig River Ferry Stations (PRFS-TS-01).** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PRRC now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply and Installation of Ticketing and Access System for the Pasig River Ferry Stations (PRFS-TS-01).** Delivery of the GOODS is required starting **October 12, 2006.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **9:00A.M. to 3:00P.M.:**

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F MWSS Compound, Engineering Building
Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from **August 7 to August 18, 2006, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.** at the address below upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **TWELVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 12,000.00).** The method of payment shall be made only upon a certification by the Head of the Procuring Entity to the effect that the Goods have been rendered or delivered in accordance with the terms of the Contract and have been duly inspected and accepted. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PRRC-IABAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **August 24, 2006, 10:00 A.M.** at the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, PRRC Conference Room, 2F MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **September 5, 2006, 10:00 AM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **September 5, 2006, 10:30 AM** at the **PRRC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F MWSS Compound, Engineering Building,
Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 433-3447, 433-3446, 433-3444, and 926-5234
Telefax No. 926-6449
prrc@tri-isys.com

(Sgd.) **Bingle H. B. Gutierrez**
IABAC-Chairperson

(PDI - August 5 & 12, 2006)

Iligan Light and Power Incorporated

Project ACCESS – Accelerating Community Electricity Services Using Solar

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

This call for eligibility and to bid is to supply, install, commission and provide maintenance services for twelve (12) solar photovoltaic systems in public facilities and end use appliances in two (2) barangays as well as to commercially sell, market and install a number of solar home systems (SHS), i.e. 100 SHS, for private customers in Barangays Panoroganan and Kalilangan, Iligan City.

1. The *Iligan Light and Power Incorporated (ILPI)*, through the *ER 1-94 and Rural Power Project,* intends to apply the sum of Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 2,700,000.00) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Iligan Project ACCESS Contract. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The *Iligan Light and Power Incorporated (ILPI)* now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply, *installation, commissioning and provision of maintenance services for five years for twelve (12) solar photovoltaic systems in public facilities and end use appliances in two (2) barangays in Project ACCESS area Iligan as well as for the commercial selling, marketing and installation of a number of solar home systems (SHS), i.e. 100 SHS, for private customers in the same Project ACCESS area.* The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria. Only bids from bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the Bid to technical and financial requirements of the Project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Iligan Light and Power Incorporated (ILPI)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 to 5:00 pm; Monday through Friday.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be secured by interested Bidders from the address below or may be downloaded at the Rural Power Project website (www.doe.gov.ph under the RPP link). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Iligan Light and Power Incorporated (ILPI)* will hold a Pre-Bid conference open to all interested parties on 23 August 2006, 2:00 p.m. at ILPI Office, Bro. Jeffrey Road, Pala-o, Iligan City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11 September 2006; 12:00 noon. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 11 September 2006; 12:00 noon at ILPI Office, Bro. Jeffrey Road, Pala-o, Iligan City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Iligan Light and Power Incorporated (ILPI)* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Iligan Light and Power Inc.
Bro. Jeffrey Road, Pala-o, Iligan City
Telephone No. (063) 223-1188 or (063) 223-2487

(PDI–July 30 & August 12, 2006)

MUNICIPALITY OF POZORRUBIO

SF-GOOD-05

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Pozorrubio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Supply and Delivery of Toilet Hardwares & Accessories for 5th Congressional District of Pangasinan
Location	:	5th District of Pangasinan
Brief Description		Supply & Delivery of Toilet Hardwares & Accessories
Approved Budget for the Contract		P 4,200,000.00 Congressional Fund
Contract Duration		15 calendar days
Delivery Period		Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed (to be issued later)

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	*Schedule*
1.	Submission of Eligibility Documents	August 28 – September 1, 2006
2.	Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Documents	September 1, 2006
3.	Result of Eligibility Check	September 5, 2006
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents	September 6-8, 2006
5.	Pre-bid Conference @ Accounting Office 9:00 AM	September 11, 2006
6.	Opening of Bids @ Accounting Office 2:00 PM	September 25, 2006
7.	Bid Evaluation	September 26, 2006
8.	Post-qualification	September 27-28, 2006
9.	Notice of Award	September 29, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P21,000.00 to the Municipality of Pozorrubio Cashier.

The Municipality of Pozorrubio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

Approved by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. AMERIGO S. GARCIA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 12 & 19, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

NOTICE

The **Home Guaranty Corporation** is offering for **"Sale on a Best Offer"** basis the property described as follows:

PROJECT NAME	:	**MONUMENTO PLAZA SEVEN STOREY MALL**
LOCATION	:	OLD VICTORY COMPOUND KALOOCAN CITY
GROSS AREA	:	55,773.35 sqms.
TOTAL SALEABLE AREA	:	38,021.61 sqms
TOTAL COMMITTED/SOLD	:	9,514.78 sqms.
REMAINING LEASABLE AREA	:	24,934.83 sqms.
LEASABLE AREA FOR EXPANSION	:	3,572.00 sqms.
LEASE TERM	:	19 YEARS Extension for another 6 years subject to approval of Kalayaan Development & Industrial Corporation (Landowner)

Offer may be in the form of outright sale of leasehold rights, straight lease or joint venture scheme.

All interested lessees/buyers are advised to inspect the property for lease/sale to see for themselves its actual condition. The Terms of Reference and other relevant documents may be obtained for a non-refundable fee of P50,000.00 from the Project Management and Acquired Asset Disposition Group at the 4th Floor, 335 Jade Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City or call 895-62-50 / 897-32-24 / 897-31-49.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON G. CORPUZ**
Chairman
Monumento Plaza Project
Disposition Committee

(PDI - July 30 & Aug. 12, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 90, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF:
PETITION FOR REHABILITATION
WITH PRAYER FOR SUSPENSION OF
ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS
AGAINST PETITIONER

SPECIAL PROCEEDING NO. Q-03-071

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.,
Petitioner.
x----------x

ORDER

Pursuant to this Court's Order dated July 18, 2006, Atty. Rosario Bernaldo, the court-appointed rehabilitation receiver submitted her Consolidated Receiver's Report on July 28, 2006 on the various claims of creditors/suppliers and supervisors/ employees in accordance with certain provisions of the approved rehabilitation plan for the petitioner in this case. The hearing on said Report is set on August 18, 2006 at 2:00 p.m., and if for any reason this hearing does not push through, then, this hearing shall be automatically reset to August 25, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

As prayed for also during the last hearing, the petitioner through its counsel, Atty. Reagan de Guzman and Atty. Bernaldo are ordered to cause the publication of this Order in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Manila Bulletin and the Philippine Daily Star on August 12, 2006 (Saturday) so the various stakeholders and the public can be notified/further notified of the hearing, as stated above, in this case.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, August 3, 2006.

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO B. DAWAY, C.P.A.**
Presiding Judge

(PDI–Aug. 12, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

10 pcs. of ¼" x 2500# Solenoid Valves under FGJ 61054
Approved Budget: PHP 2,800,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **August 7, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **August 14, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time)** of **August 28, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action

(PDI–August 5 & 12, 2006)

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

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SSS & PNOC B5

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Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111 Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati@citygardenhotels.com

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

CSB HOTEL
Arellano Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401
Email: customerservice@csbhotel.com

Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Edsa Shangri-La Manila
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Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
Intersection of Carino St. and Legarda Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpineholte@skyinet.net

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Mandarin Oriental Manila
Paseo de Roxas cor. Makati Ave. Makati City
Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

Renaissance Makati City Hotel
Esperanza St. cor. makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 811-6888/Fax. 811-6777
www.marriott.com

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2) 728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/Fax (082) 225-1888

Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Kaputian Island Garden, City of Samal
Tel. (082) 221-9970 to 73
Manila: (02) 750-1896 /Fax (082) 221-9979

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P. Levista St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SUMMER PLACE HOTEL
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Mandarin Oriental offers wine dinner

TO ROUND UP A CONCERT AND SHOW night at the Araneta Coliseum, Mandarin Oriental Café & Deli at the Gateway Mall will offer a gourmet-cum-wine pairing menu to complement its current stylish dining concept, beginning with the INXS band's "Switch On Manila Tour" rock concert on Tuesday, Aug. 15. Concert goers and INXS fans have the opportunity to start off the exciting night with a splendid three-course dinner menu offered at P880++, consisting of: Peppered tuna sashimi on saffron herb aioli, Pan-fried beef medallion and sautéed king prawn in grain mustard sauce and pink pepper corn butter, and Passion fruit pannacotta on strawberry coulis.

Mandarin Oriental Café & Deli's gourmet wine dinner menus, which will be offered as early as 5:30 p.m. as appetizing preludes to subsequent music concerts and events featured in the Araneta Coliseum, position the MO Café & Deli as a restaurant of note in the metropolis offering modern fare of Continental and Pan-Asian cuisines. "This dinner-cum-wine offering is in answer to the demand of upmarket concert goers who have made a habit of stopping by MO Café & Deli for dinner prior to the concerts", explains Mandarin Oriental, Manila's executive assistant manager for food and beverage David Thomas, who says that the popularity of the restaurant among the mall's shoppers continues to grow.

The good news for Gateway shoppers and Quezon City residents is that on these occasions, they too can enjoy this unique privilege even when they do not hold tickets to the concerts. The wine dinner concept is a take-off from the deluxe hotel's successful "Nights of Wine and Fine Dining" which proffers a seven-course menu paired with flowing wines, and is offered every last Friday of the month at its signature fine-dining restaurant, The Tivoli.

Mandarin Oriental Café & Deli is located at the upper ground floor at Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, and is open from 10 a.m. daily and until 11 p.m. on Sundays to Thursdays; and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. For details and take-out services, call 913-5505.

Parreño named GM for Discovery Shores Boracay

WITH THE CONstruction of its luxurious Discovery Shores resort-spa in Boracay Island well underway, Annabelle Wisniewski, president of HSAI-Raintree Management Company, has announced the appointment of Jose C. Parreño as general manager.

In his new role, Parreño will oversee all operations - including resort development - for Discovery Shores Boracay. Slated to open in December 2006, Discovery Boracay Shores will feature 88 beautifully appointed suites, a restaurant, function rooms, and a spa.

According to Wisniewski, Parreño will also spearhead special projects for HSAI-Raintree, which currently manages the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center and Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay.

Parreño, born and raised in the City of Smiles, Bacolod City, has since had an industry career that has encompassed hotel marketing, operations, staff development and guest services.

Prior to his Discovery experience, Parreño was with Mandarin Oriental for seven years and Pan Pacific Manila for two years. He joined Discovery Suites in 1999, taking the director of operations position handling front office, housekeeping, security and food & beverage departments.

Parreño earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of the Philippines. He also completed a Management Program from the Asian Institute of Management in 2005, a Professional Development Program and the PDP General Manager's Course from the Cornell-Nanyang Institute of Hospitality Management in 2006.

For inquiries about Discovery Shores Boracay, please direct them only to Cathy H. Nepomuceno, director of sales and marketing, at cnepomuceno@discovery.com.ph, or visit discoveryshoresboracay.com.

Fiesta San Miguel's 'Salo-salong Pinoy'

TRUE TO THE hotel's flare for fine Filipino cuisine, let Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel simplify your dining choices with the restaurant's specially designed 'Salo-Salong Pinoy' lunch set menu.

Savor the sumptuous menu selections prepared by the restaurant's seasoned chefs who have made your lunch selection easier, heftier and faster, giving emphasis on variety and value for your money.

Each set menu consists of a soup with choices such as Sinigang Soup, Nilagang Baka and Molo Soup. For the entrée, choices are Inihaw na Sugpo at Tanigue, Cerveza Humba, Binagoongang Baboy, Chicken Pork Adobo, Bangus Belly and Beef Tapa. For dessert, one may choose Dulce de Leche Ice Cream, or Mais Con Yelo or Sari Saring Prutas.

Bring your family and friends and together enjoy Fiesta San Miguel's "Salo-Salong Pinoy". Available daily for lunch, except for Sundays. Priced at P250++ only.

For dining reservations, please call 867-3333 extension 3308.

The Nestlé Creamery, perfect party place

KIDS will certainly have a grand birthday in the Nestlé Creamery just like these child stars from the hit show Goin' Bulilit.

BIRTHDAYS ARE ALWAYS A SPECIAL OCCASion. And what's a birthday without ice cream? No party would seem complete without it-and when it comes to ice cream, what better place to have it than at the new Nestlé Creamery?

Located along Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City, the Nestlé Creamery has been a landmark of sorts since the late 70s when it first opened. However, with the passing of the years and the mushrooming of similar places elsewhere in Metro Manila, it gradually lost its appeal. That is, until Michelle Chang-Co and her partners Joel Tuquib and Emerson Lim of Innovasian Ideas, Inc, under the guidance of the Nestlé Foodservices team headed by AVP Cindy Banaria and Assistant Manager Cyril dela Calzada, came in to give the place a refreshing new concept and look.

Recently, a little before the start of school classes, the new Nestlé Creamery finally opened its doors. Designed along a new theme, with more fun and funky colors and boasting an expanded menu, the Nestlé Creamery is sure to figure prominently in many Filipino families' celebrations in the years to come, just like the old ice cream parlor used to during its time.

A lot of thought and preparation went into the making of the new Nestlé Creamery menu. It is a full-range menu that boasts everything from a complete selection of appetizers, soup, pizza and sandwiches. And the ice cream, let's not forget the ice cream! At the Nestlé Creamery, one can either have ice cream preparations single-serve (for one person) or to share, if you're worried about your weight or just want a more fun ice-cream eating experience during parties. They also have the usual sundaes, cobblers and parfaits you would find in an ice cream parlor, although some of them have been given a new twist by Michelle and her team.

Open from Mondays to Sundays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., the Nestlé Creamery is located inside the Nestlé Ice Cream compound along Aurora Boulevard in Cubao. For party inquiries and other details, call tel. number 415-7872 or fax party details to telefax number 415-4842.

People, Events & Products

JCI Senate and Insular Life accept TOFIL nominations

JCI SENATE PHILIPPINES AND THE INSULAR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LTD ARE STILL ACCEPTing nominations for the 2006 The Outstanding Filipino (Tofil) Award until Aug. 31. JCI Senate Philippines national president Severo P. Dela Cruz and Insular Life chair and CEO Vicente R. Ayllón call on the public to nominate Filipinos who can serve as role models to the youth to strive for excellence in their chosen field of expertise and to contribute to the building of a progressive Philippine society. Now on its 19th year, the Tofil Award aims to give recognition to Filipinos, 41 years and older, who have made significant contributions to the advancement of their profession, public welfare and national development. The Tofil Awardees for 2006 were: Ambassador Lauro Baja for Bilateral and Multi-lateral Diplomacy; Ben Farrales for Fashion and Arts; and Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo for Medicine. Any individual or organization may nominate a candidate on the official Tofil nomination form. These forms are available at all JCI Senate chapter offices and Insular Life offices nationwide, or call the JCI Senate Secretariat office at 374-4390 and 412-5662 or the Insular Life Head Office at 771-1818. Nomination forms may also be downloaded from www.tofil.ph. Nominations should cover accomplishments up to June 30, 2006. Deadline for submission of nominations is Aug. 31, 2006.

Real Bank's 30th Anniversary

THE REAL BANK'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ENTITLED ALKANSYA 2006, RECENTLY HELD AT the Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila in Ortigas, was graced by very important friends, partners and guests welcomed by the bank's chairman of the board, Jose G. Araullo, president Alfredo S. Barretto and other officers of the bank. This inspiring presentation also include an exhibit of the winning entries of the past two years' art contest of the bank's savings advocacy project with the Department of Education called "Bata... Bata... Magimpok at Magsinop" which, to date, has won for the Bank various recognitions. The chairman of the board, Jose G. Araullo, afterwards gave a speech where he personally thanked all those who helped The Real Bank as he reported their accomplishments and renewed their commitment to pursue the path that they have started -- this time, focusing on the Filipino workers whom they equally believe deserve much attention. The Real Bank truly has and continues its commitment of upholding Filipino values and supporting Filipino dreams.

MOBILE PASSPORT SERVICES
More than 400 people, including Noveleta, Cavite Mayor Arlynn A. Torres (shown in right, holding her passport), availed of the Mobile Passport Service jointly undertaken by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Noveleta, Cavite on July 1.

PROPERTY

Creating low-energy homes

By Charles E. Buban

SOARING ENERGY PRICES have literally hit home. With petroleum prices skyrocketing, so is the price of domestic fuel like kerosine and liquefied petroleum gas, and the rate of household electricity, which were are all produced by processes that involved this essential raw material.

Importing more than 90 percent of its petroleum requirements, the Philippines becomes dependent from its every price movement in the world market.

"With this sad reality it is only prudent for homeowners to also consider developing an energy conservation plan for their home as this is both environment-friendly and economically sound action," said Sonny Ducay, executive director of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association.

He suggested that household members should start practicing what is called low-energy lifestyle. "Which is not about slouching on the couch or sleeping all day. Rather, it means doing something that could cut significantly the energy consumption around the house."

Easy ways

But if installing solar panels or constructing windmills would be too complicated, Ducay said homeowners could always start with the much simpler approaches to cutting energy consumption inside homes.

"By flicking off a few light switches you'll make a surprising difference. Moreover, start swapping those incandescent bulbs to energy-efficient fluorescent lamps or those popular energy-saving light bulbs, which produce the same amount of light at a fraction of the electricity," Ducay said.

In the kitchen, help your refrigerator and freezer keep its ability to cool by defrosting them regularly and making sure they're not too close to any cooking appliances.

"On the stove, pots with lids on won't take so long to reach cooking temperature and at the same time, you'll save a bit of cooking fuel and get the meal on the table in double-quick time," he suggested.

Wasting water also wastes electricity. Why? Because one of the biggest uses of electricity in the country goes to pumping and processing the water that comes out of faucets and toilet bowls.

"About 75 percent of the water households use in their homes is used in the bathroom so it's best to install a low flush toilet and check and repair those leaking bathroom fixture (a faucet that leaks enough water to fill a soft drink bottle every 30 minutes will waste some 8,300 liters of water)," Ducay said.

Home architecture

For those still in the process of planning their house, Ducay said home architecture will play an important role in lessening their future consumption of electricity.

"The sun is one of the most abundant resources in tropical countries like the Philippines. However, as a design determinant, it is not the sun but the shade that is a fundamental element when designing a house here. Just as sunlight and its warmth are invigorating in cold climates, in the tropics it is the coolness of shade that is vital," Ducay said.

He said the architecture in the tropics is of roofs. Acting like a parasol, its overhang extends to provide protection from the sun and the rain.

Helpful techniques

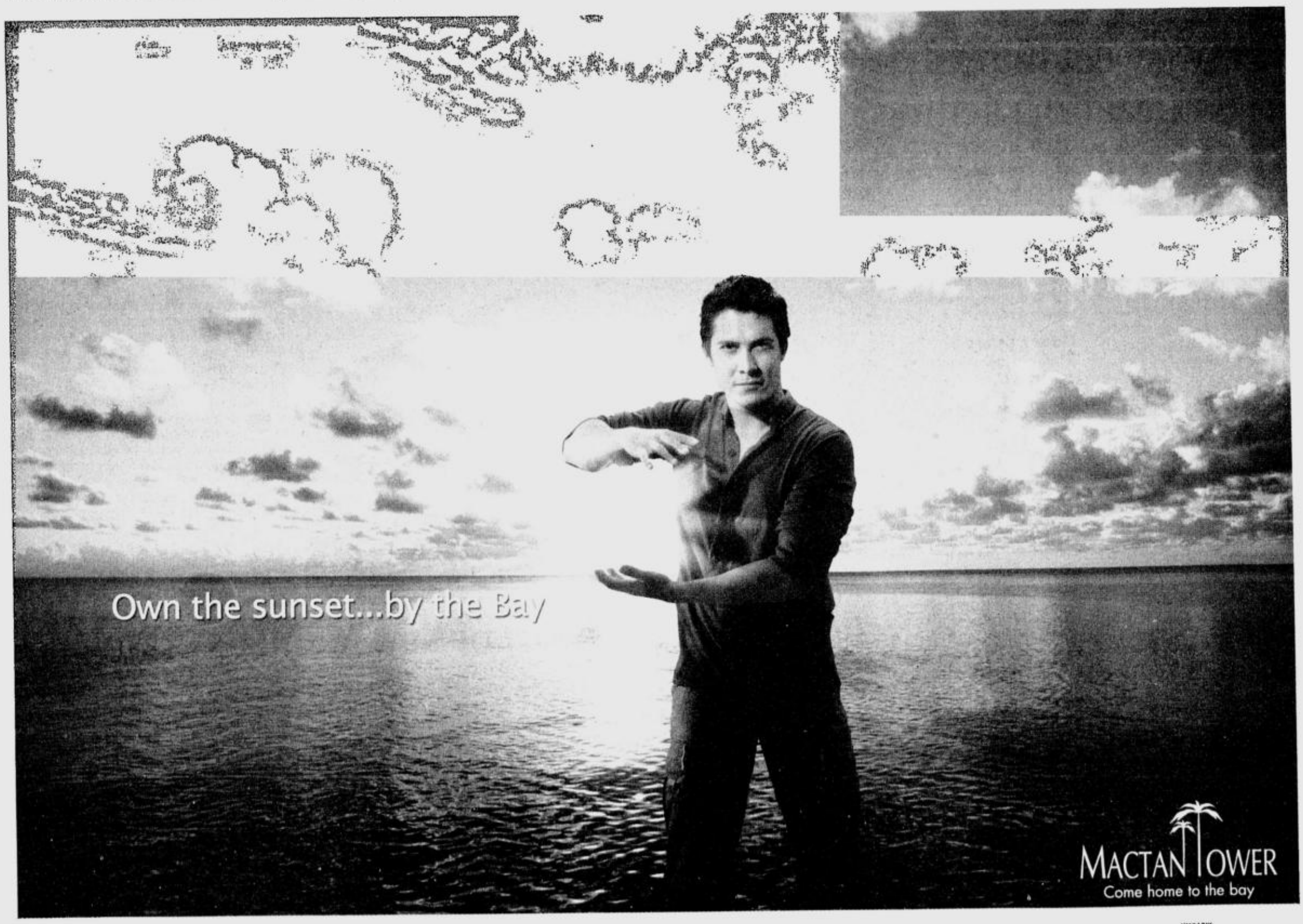
Using light-colored roofs to reflect the heat, correctly sized eaves that can provide permanent shade to north and south windows and walls, avoiding (as much as possible) windows on east and western walls to prevent low morning and afternoon sun heating up the house, and proper roof space ventilation that draws the heat out are some of the helpful techniques that Ducay cited.

Aside from the sun, a wise home buyer should also take note of the predominant wind direction—otherwise known as the prevailing winds.

"The house should be open to fresh air, yet insulated from intense heat. Taking advantage of the natural ventilation in home building will surely save lots of money. During the hotter months, households won't have to rely too much on electric fans and air conditioners," Ducay assured.

He added that it is best for home buyers to discuss these things with their architects or their builders as they could provide suggestions that best apply or is most practical for their particular house projects.

"In the case of SHDA members, who are made up of real estate developers, they are also sharing experiences and techniques on how to make their respective projects energy-efficient. Some have already started by using a particular design on their home units while the others on the building materials or building technique they employ on their respective projects," Ducay said.



Makati's fast-paced, ruthless lifestyle can be dull drudgery for any mover and shaker. A working day can leave you stripped of your intensity and passion for living, resigning you to a life of tedium without the energy to reap your successes.

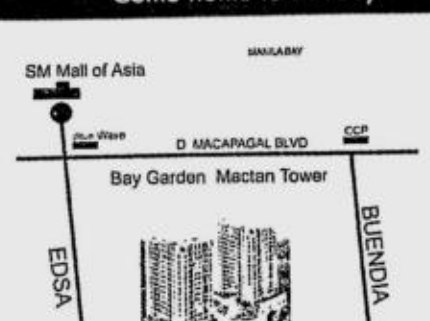
At Mactan Tower, coming home is as warm as it is rewarding. Bask in the seaside sunshine, or energize yourself with a stimulating walk under the sunset. Or live it up at the exciting establishments around the area, such as the Mall of Asia, Blue Wave and Malate Circle. Although the landscape may seem like a world apart, Mactan Tower is a mere half an hour's drive from the hustle and bustle of your Makati office.

Stunning and spectacular living is just within your reach at Mactan Tower. A brighter future is in your hands. Tap into the power of Bayside living and check out our available units now. **Call 551 0888** to see what's waiting for you by the bay.

For announcement purposes only.

MACTAN TOWER at BAY GARDEN

FEDERALAND



Living in a glass house

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN IS somehow dictated by the materials that are available at a particular time and place. From the straw huts of tropical dwellers to the stone and mortar abodes of craggy environs, past generations have looked to their surroundings to provide for their shelter. Today, however, we have a wealth of materials at our fingertips, compounded by the advances in technology that allow their use in countless ways.

In Europe, metal and glass are the more popular choice these days, dictating a sleek, strong city profile. In the United States, fiberglass and plastics are showing the way toward highly efficient structures. In the local setting, all these materials are readily available, although the costs are somewhat prohibitive. Builders and owners are increasingly adopting these "modern" materials, recreating standard designs into more streamlined, energy-efficient and durable models.

The esthetic of glass

We started out using large format glass on car showrooms and hotel lobbies. Of late, one can find them in upscale homes as well. People are learning to appreciate the esthetic of glass in regular houses, as something they can live in comfortably, maintain reasonably well, and enjoy.

On the other hand, living in a "modern" house, particularly a glass house, is not for everyone. Some care too much for privacy and feel that the rest of the world can get too interested in theirs. In truth, the neighbors are probably more embarrassed to look in than the homeowners are to look out. Besides, there is an abundance of window treatments you can harness to regain one's sanctuary, such as glass tint, drapery, screens and blinds. In addition, the great windows can be shielded creatively from the outside with the smart use of plants, lights or other decorative details.

Maintenance of glass is not too daunting. Glass cleaners may be significantly cheaper than paint. Security-wise, glass can be propped up through alarm systems, ingenuous locks, grillwork or other artistic shields. Others claim that large windows could also deter casual criminals.

Glass façade

A mixed-use development in San Jose, California called Santana Row boasts of loft-type residential units with a glass façade. The units are very visible from the classy commercial row of coffee shops, gourmet restaurants and art shops on the ground level. The concept proved to be a hit among the locals; this trend is on its way to our shores.

I too have lived in a glass house for the past 18 years when it wasn't fashionable. Oh, the neighbors probably know all my secret habits by now, but for me, the advantages of such a home far outweigh my discomfiture.

For one, I value the sunlight streaming inside my home throughout the day, reducing both the lighting bill and the incidence of mustiness. The big windows bring me closer to nature outside and the perception of space adds to my comfort and ease. Having more windows than walls has helped keep my home simple and airy. I am readily alerted to any coming visitors and I can watch the outside world like a telenovela in real time.

Living in a glass house has its down sides too, but after experiencing and enjoying one for so long, I cannot think of living any other way.

LARGE glass windows in our home office above and kitchen below let natural light in and fresh air flowing. It also allows a good view.

PERCHED atop the rolling terrains of Carmona, Cavite, Woodland Hills affords its residents a stunning view of nature at its grandest.

WOODLAND HILLS

Home sweet homes in natural lush setting

THROUGH THE YEARS, DMCI Homes has changed the urban landscape by building communities that, though still situated within Metro Manila, are distinguished by vast open space, lush foliage and vegetation. These are developments that afford their dwellers the luxury of smelling the roses without having to leave the city. These are exclusive yet affordable enclaves to which urban folk at the end of the day repair and feel soothed, healed and restored.

Now, DMCI Homes has gone south past the Metro boundaries and is developing another community of home sweet homes in a natural setting of rolling terrains, grass, trees, shrubberies and blooms kissed by the sun, bees and butterflies. Woodlands, the company's latest project nestled in Carmona, Cavite, offers modern contemporary manors from which one can revel in the wonder of Laguna de Bay and the glory of Tagaytay City.

One of a kind community

Woodland Hills incorporates the functionality of a modern home and the beauty found in large front lawns, gardens and balconies looking out on still more of nature's grandeur. Like all of DMCI Homes' medium-rise residential developments and high-rise condominiums, the Carmona enclave is another secured community into which resort amenities such as a swimming pool, clubhouse, view deck, basketball court, playground and parks have been integrated as well.

A Woodland Hills home showcases exquisite design and functional architecture. Ideal for start-up or growing families, the development offers three affordable housing options—two-story duplex, two-story townhouse and loft-type abode.

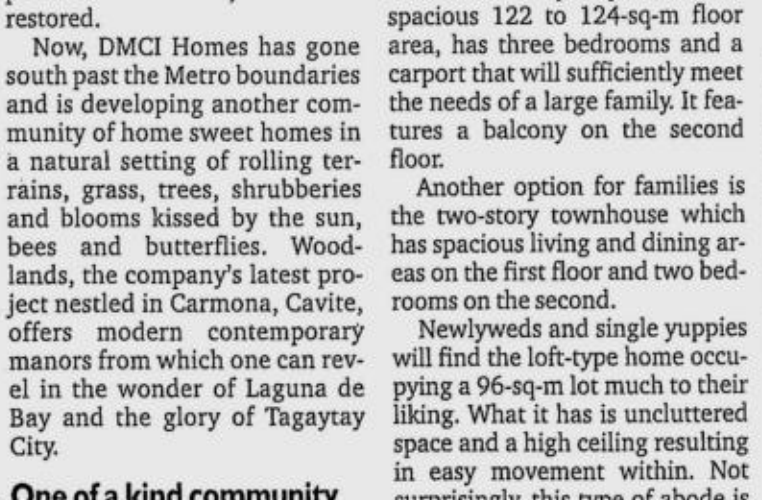
Modern homes

The two-story duplex, with a spacious 122 to 124-sq-m floor area, has three bedrooms and a carport that will sufficiently meet the needs of a large family. It features a balcony on the second floor.

Another option for families is the two-story townhouse which has spacious living and dining areas on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second.

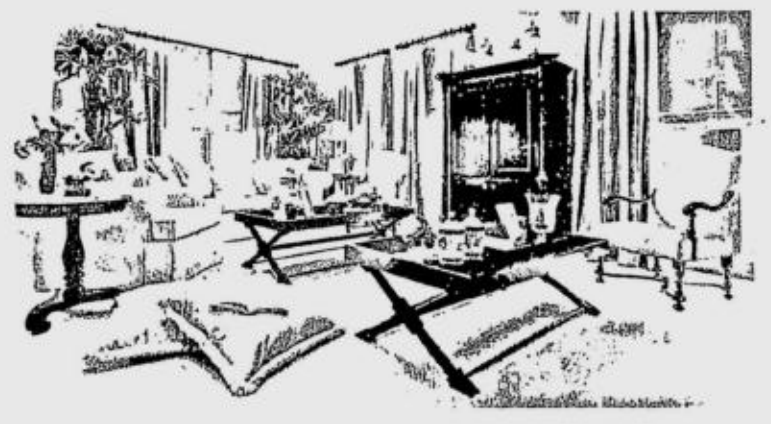
Newlyweds and single yuppies will find the loft-type home occupying a 96-sq-m lot much to their liking. What it has is uncluttered space and a high ceiling resulting in easy movement within. Not surprisingly, this type of abode is a hit among independent employees working inside a number of nearby economic zones in Cavite.

At Woodland Hills, enriched and nurtured by the bounty and beauty of nature, all the elements making a house a home come together in perfect harmony. For more information about Woodland Hills, interested parties may call 888-3333 or visit www.dmci-homes.com.



THE TWO-STORY townhouse is ideal for large families.

The best by far is actually quite near



ATHERTON living room

THE SEARCH FOR CONTENTMENT IS AN unending quest of defining and redefining one's standards. It begins with the drive and passion to have only the best quality of life.

More often, the deepest sense of contentment is found in the basics, within the very essence of a home. To be at your prime while your children enjoy flying kites and piggyback rides, to come home to the comforting aroma of a home-cooked meal prepared by your wife in the confines of her sun-drenched kitchen, to live in such an ideal community where backyard barbecues with the neighbors is a weekend ritual.

There is nothing more priceless than to have a home where you can escape from all worldly complications and just be you, a home that is away from the big city but close enough to allow you to be in command of your life's pace.

Look no farther

One visionary real estate company shares the same ideals. Century Properties, the acclaimed full-service real estate company, has chosen Carmona, Cavite as the perfect location for its first horizontal development that will redefine the standards of an ideal community—Canyon Ranch.

ATHERTON lanai and infinity pool

Just 10 minutes away from Alabang, Canyon Ranch is a prestigious gated community in the south. It provides the serenity of nature, the sophistication of technology, and the familiarity of the classic California ranch-inspired masterplan.

An ideal place to raise a family, Canyon Ranch opens limitless avenues for memories that will last a lifetime. Built 10 stories above sea level, Canyon Ranch prides itself with the cool and breezy climate unique to its location. The property is within the San Lazaro Leisure Park, overlooking the Manila Jockey Club's magnificent horse racetrack.

Canyon Ranch introduces a perfect balance of work and play. As the first and only WiFi integrated community in the country, residents can connect to the Internet while enjoying the vast parks and open spaces, village center and club with world-class amenities.

Live the dream

Eighty percent of Canyon Ranch sold in a little over a year after its launch, making it the fastest selling development in the south. With over 20 years of expertise, Century Properties, the largest and most reliable privately owned real estate company in the Philippines, has once again merged luxury with affordability. Remarkable house and lot units with split-level configurations, sun-drenched interiors, picture windows, and spacious balconies that open out to 360-degree views of lush mountains and vast waters go for as low as P2 million. With flexible and interest-free payment options, the Canyon Ranch lifestyle is within reach. Now, you and your family can start living that dream.

For more information, log on to www.canyonranch.com.ph or call 818-9025, 893-7050 and 0915-700-2000.

Presidio at the heart of New Manila's grandeur

CROWNASIA, THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST homebuilder, is creating its second vertical address right in the heart of Quezon City—Crown Presidio New Manila.

Though surrounded by industrialization, New Manila still exudes a rustic ambiance as adjacent avenues remain lined with mature trees and mansions of prominent old Manila families top off the area's grandeur. The charm of the '50s is very much evident at New Manila while it is conveniently located near business and commercial centers.

Presidio New Manila spells high-style, high-rise living meant for urbanites who wish to benefit from the practicality of a vertical residence and desire a masterplanned, themed home. The 16-story high-rise condominium is a self-contained vertical community inspired by the distinct neo-Victorian architecture of San Francisco.

Career-driven individuals, young couples, and beginning families alike will find a place to call their own from the array of units with versatile layouts available at Presidio New Manila:

Typical studio units

Given the hectic schedule of individuals with steadfast careers, a residence of ingenious yet comfortable architecture that does not require tedious upkeep suits them. Each unit features a bedroom, toilet and bath, living and dining area, and kitchen

- Studio Deluxe, floor areas ranging from 24 to 40 sq m
- Studio Premiere, floor areas ranging from 41 to 60 sq m

Special units

As young couples and beginning families look into their growing needs, the special units at Presidio New Manila is a luxurious option for vertical living.

- 1-Bedroom Unit Deluxe,has floor areas ranging from 30 to 40 sq m. It features a bedroom, toilet and bath, dining and living areas, and kitchen;
- 2-Bedroom Combo Unit has a minimum floor area of 31 sq m. It offers larger living spaces for its residents; and the
- 3-Bedroom Unit Deluxe is the most lavish choice among the units offered at Presidio New Manila with a minimum floor area of 60 sq m.

Aside from a wide selection of residential units, CrownAsia develops a thoroughly planned enclave by including lifestyle amenities such as an event plaza for various functions, a home theater for a unique movie experience, and a game room to unwind or interact with neighbors. Presidio's theme inspiration also takes after the famed San Francisco Park by incorporating nature amid vertical living in the meditation gardens, sundeck, linear park and family entertainment rooms located at the fifth floor.

Heightening the practicality of condo living and lessening the stress brought by busy schedules is the presence of commercial establishments at the ground floor of Presidio. A fitness gym, internet café, day care center, and laundromat along with other businesses will be at your fingertips. A three-level podium parking at Presidio New Manila is also available for residents.

Technically located on Main Avenue, Presidio New Manila is flanked by major lifestyle destinations such as Greenhills. The neighboring commercial and business areas of Quezon City are a few minutes away. The Bonny Serrano MRT station is a few blocks away. A quick U-turn on Edsa will take you to the Araneta Center, while a 10-minute drive will bring you to Eastwood and other malls in Ortigas.

Presidio New Manila presents vertical, city-centered living in a prime site in Quezon City. Property previews may be arranged by contacting CrownAsia at Tel. Nos. 634-9306, 634-9400, and 634-9001 to 02, or visit www.crownasia.com.ph on the web.

One Serendra: lowest-density living in Bonifacio Global City

ONE Serendra is the lowest density condominium development in Bonifacio Global City and expanded Makati area. This means sharing a space or amenity with less number of people at any given time.

BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY IN TAGUIG is the premier business district of the future complementing the Makati Central Business District. The new master-plan for its City Center is anchored on the theme, "the home of passionate minds," an environment that will nurture an innovative way of living and working.

At the heart of Bonifacio Global City is an equally revolutionary garden residential condominium development you can call home. One Serendra is the vision of luxurious condo living from Ayala Land Premier, the new brand of high-end developments from the country's most trusted and experienced real estate developer Ayala Land.

ONE Serendra's luxury of suburban condo living in the city complements Bonifacio Global City's goal being a pedestrian and greenery-oriented destination.

Pedestrian-friendly haven

One Serendra will be the most ideal home befitting the work-life balance of Bonifacio Global City because it is the lowest density residential development within the emerging business district—truly enabling a freedom of space, time and relaxation.

Because of its expert masterplanning, One Serendra is also a pedestrian-friendly haven, in line with the pedestrian orientation of the Bonifacio Global City development in the near future. This means less vehicles, less pollution and more opportunities for an intimate enjoyment of nature and surroundings. One Serendra has 65 percent greenery and open spaces, a unique proposition nowhere to be found in any other residential development, much less a condominium project.

Multicultural experience

The One Serendra neighborhood will also be connected to the City Center through a retail portion that is part of a wide, green commercial strip traversing the heart of Bonifacio Global City. Here, One Serendra residents will enjoy a taste of international flavors and fashion through quaint shops, cafés and restaurants that provide a genuine multicultural experience. No big brands or commercial names—just warm and authentic stores that will make you feel as if you had traveled the world far and wide for unique and one-of-a-kind cultural treasures.

The City Center's retail promenade and other mixed-use zones are aimed at providing all the possible living conveniences to the denizens of Bonifacio Global City. With One Serendra located within Bonifacio Global City

ILLUSTRATIVE building perspective of the City Center retail promenade, part of which will include the authentic international experience of the Shops at Serendra.

itself, you will never need to go far to enjoy the advantages of state-of-the-art and prestigious hospitals, learning institutions,. and commercial and business districts. The beauty of One Serendra lies in being able to retreat to a suburban-like sanctuary while still being accessible to modern city comforts.

Revolutionary living

Most importantly, with One Serendra being developed by Ayala Land Premier, be assured that this vision of revolutionary living will become a sure reality. Enjoy unsurpassed exclusivity and value over time of your property, ensuring a sound investment for present use and for generations of your family to come. Be part of progress not just by living in Bonifacio Global City but in finding a home at One Serendra—the ideal abode for those who believe in the vision of the premier business district of the future.

To know more about One Serendra, call 889-1SER (1737), e-mail oneserendra@ayalalandpremier.com or visit www.oneserendra.com. Visit its model units at the Serendra sales pavilion on 26th St., Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Location important in Brittany's master-planning

BRITTANY CORP. HAS EARNED A track record for specializing in high-end residential communities, with each influenced by a theme that is evocative but not imitative of the original place of inspiration. It has carved out a reputation as a maverick developer by unifying the various elements of master-planning to create a "lifescape" in every community, a way of life that fulfills the needs and wants of residents, while elevating their quality of living to a new level.

To Brittany, each master-planning element is crucial: first of all, the vision driving the creation and sustainability of each community; the team of people involved in its development; the composition of the physical and natural environment; the presence of necessary infrastructures in the surroundings; and the demand for flexibility and innovativeness in planning and execution.

Key among these elements is selecting a prime location which maximizes the desirability of the community, even while its presence will generate added value to the vicinity. A residence of choice in an exclusive, gated community requires an optimum location, given the limited availability of land in and around Metro Manila, and the transport infrastructure shortfalls which the metro population faces.

Metro south

The metro south is the choice for Brittany communities because of the availability of suitable land for the development of upscale neighborhoods, and the avoidance of congestion and pollution in relation to the rest of the metropolis. Plus the road infrastructures in the south, overall, offer more options for access than those in the north, east and west of Metro Manila:

- The South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) is the major southern artery to and from Makati, the country's premier business and financial district.
- The planned development of C-6 along Laguna de Bay will provide access from points north and east like Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Antipolo, Taguig and Makati to Parañaque, Alabang-Muntinlupa and other destinations in the south.
- From the Alabang-Zapote Road, the expanded, four-lane Daanghari Highway serves as a corridor to the Molino-Paliparan Highway, which links the Coastal Road on the right, and Governor's Drive on the left, which in turn connects to Tagaytay or Batangas, and the Carmona Interchange on the SLEX;
- On the other side, from Manila and Pasay, the Coastal Road or Manila-Cavite Expressway, complemented by the Diosdado Macapagal Highway, leads to Cavite and other points in Calabarzon.

Brittany's flagship dev'ts

Among Brittany's flagship developments that truly demonstrate the value of location in master-planning is Portofino - 300-hectare Italian-themed lifescape strategically located on the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road.

Currently, Portofino boasts of a master-planned collection of exuding a sense of Italian charm, grandeur and romance, enriching lifestyles:

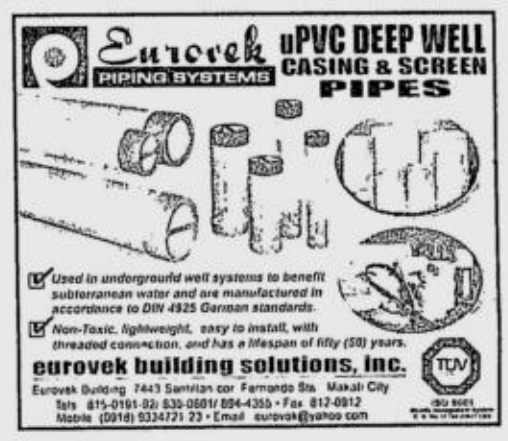
- **Portofino Heights.** Inspired by the architecture of cosmopolitan Italy, Portofino Heights has custom home sites with elegant residences featuring large, arched windows, biscuit-colored walls, high-ceiling interiors and other distinctly Italian design details.
- **WideLots of Portofino.** Adjacent to Portofino Heights is WideLots of Portofino, showcasing the concept of a wide lot frontage ranging from 17 to 22 meters and a depth of 16 to 18 meters, which enhances the visual impact of each residence. The lot configuration maximizes the appeal of exteriors from various angles, drawing attention to the beauty of every residence.
- The Courtyard residences of Portofino show an innovative application of the age-old concept of building around a central open space that enhances natural illumination and ventilation, while providing a private sanctuary. Enhancing the visual and practical appeal of Courtyard residences is their configuration in clusters around a bigger, central courtyard.
- **Portofino South.** Portofino South draws its design inspiration from contemporary Italy, with stately residences, arched windows of wide dimensions, lofty ceilings and sunny colors, offering luxurious and comfortable living. Also located next to Portofino South is another activity center, with a range of similar amenities for exercise, leisure and sports.
- **The Masters' Collection.** Aptly named after Italian masters of the arts, the Masters Collection includes six new model homes that could only be described as breathtaking in all aspects. Grandeur is in the details. And within these homes, every last element is crafted with the high life in mind.
- **Amore of Portofino.** An 11-hectare Tuscan-inspired enclave, Amore of Portofino offers those who have always aspired to live the Portofino lifestyle a chance to own a part of this charming Italian community.

Other developments

Other Brittany developments also include:

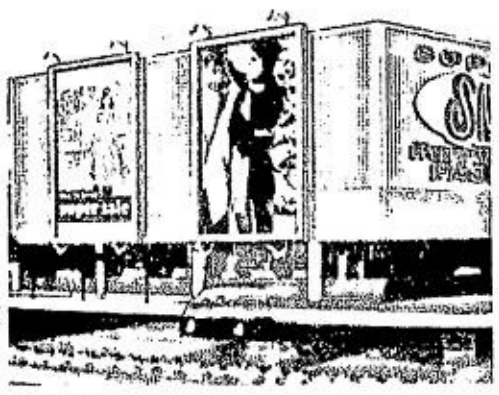
- **Brittany Bay.** The company's flagship project is a neo-Victorian themed community of neighborhoods that offers single-detached home, Duettos, and Quadrilles, as well as mid-rise condominiums.
- **CrossWinds.** This is a Swiss-themed weekend retreat with single-detached residences, Swiss Quadrilles and the Grand Quartier, set amid rolling, green terrain and thousands of pine tress in the cool quiet of Tagaytay.
- **Georgia Club.** Brittany's newest development, with its location in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, appeals to professionals in the automobile and IT industrial zones in the area.
- **The Islands.** A wide-outdoors, Caribbean-themed community inspired by island resorts, The Islands is intended for families with definite ideas of how to enjoy life.

In the end, the locations of Brittany" master-planned enclaves create advantages, benefits and values enabling residents to enjoy privileged lifestyles that only the maverick developer offers in the metro.



PROPERTY

SM Supercenter opens Aug. 18


SM Pasig

GREAT SHOPPING goes closer to home when SM Supercenter Pasig, the 26th SM supermall, opens on Aug. 18.

Located in a 2.7-hectare property in Frontera Verde on Eulogio Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Pasig City, the 29,017-square-meter mall will serve residents in the neighboring upscale and industrial subdivisions, as well as customers who regularly traverse the C5 route to and from Quezon City, Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, Pateros, Taguig and Marikina City.

One-stop shop

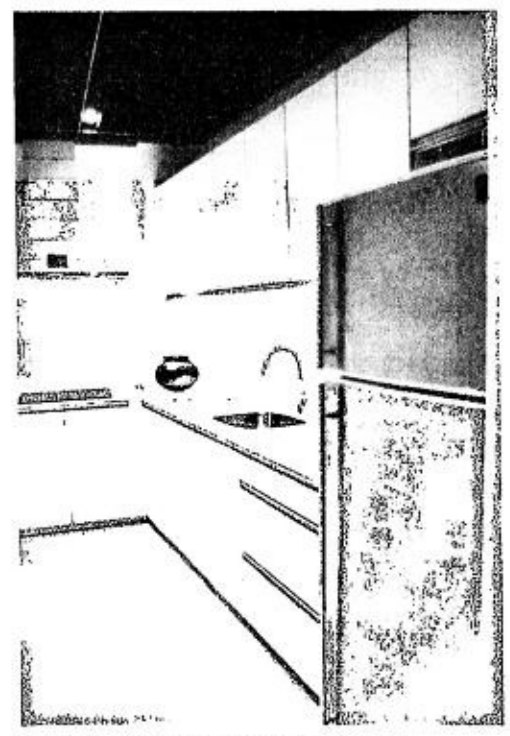
Envisioned as a one-stop shop for household and day-to-day needs, as well as a great place for eating out with family and friends, SM Supercenter Pasig has the SM Hypermarket as its major anchor. A European concept that combines supermarket, general merchandise, and discount retailers, a hypermarket has become popular in the Philippines over the past few years.

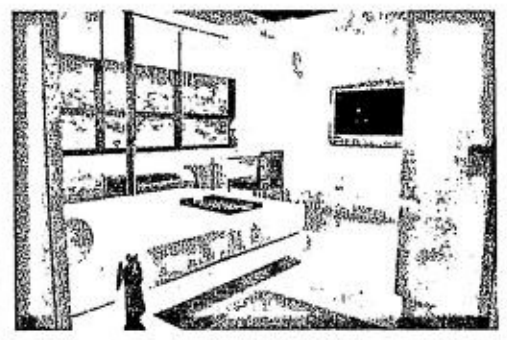
For eating out fun, SM Supercenter Pasig will have Taste Asia, where one can experience the flavors of Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Japanese cuisine dampa-style. It will also have local and international fast-food chains.

SM mainstays

The mall will also have SM mainstays like Ace Hardware as well as other shops. For customer convenience, it will have 307 slots in its basement parking.

SM Supercenter Pasig's design and construction team includes Haskoning Philippines, design architects; JR Pangilinan and Associates, architect of record; DA Abcede and Associates, project manager; and Metro Stonerich Corp., general contractor.


KITCHEN area of one-bedroom unit


ONE bedroom unit

Introducing another Landmark,
W.H. Taft Residences.

An iconic landmark engulfed by greens

ALONG THE FRINGES OF MANILA GOLF, standing on the last piece of prime real estate in the bustling Bonifacio Global City, will soon rise a striking 34-story twin tower structure—The Icon, the ultimate residential condominium designed to exceed the standards in urban living.

Designed by the distinguished architects of Recio + Casio, The Icon Residences will be no less than an architectural landmark. The building's contoured lines and eye-shaped layout allow for a full 180-degree panorama of the magnificent Manila Golf greens, the Makati skyline, the Antipolo Hills, as well the nearby business district of Ortigas.

Exceptional use of space

The Icon provides well-appointed studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units, each featuring an exceptional use of space and contemporary interiors by celebrated designers Tina Bonoan, J. Antonio Mendoza and Anna Sy, respectively. With only 10 units to a floor, privacy—and an enviable luxury of space—is guaranteed in your exquisitely furnished abode.

With first-class facilities that include a function room, a lifestyle and fitness gym, a playground area, and an infinity pool overlooking Manila Golf, The Icon is a perfect fit for business, leisure living and recreation.

Round-the-clock access

Life at The Icon will also afford you round-the-clock access to daily conveniences. The city's finest dining, shopping and entertainment establishments are merely a few minutes away, while world-class schools and offices need only a short drive. And you can get your dose of exercise by taking a leisurely stroll or a morning jog at the nearby park.

With your home at the heart of the country's premier urban hub, engulfed by the calm surroundings of nature and breathtaking city skylines, The Icon is life as it should be.

For inquiries, call Green Icon Inc. at 09178839235.

Photo display for announcement purposes only.

The latest 30-storey landmark being developed by **Philtown Properties** along Taft Avenue right beside De La Salle University. Embellished with stunningly modern looks and facilities such as a multi-purpose area, swimming pool and WiFi technology. The **W.H. Taft Residences** is the ideal living space both for college students and professionals. So prepare yourself for the art of urban living at the **W.H. Taft Residences**.

To know more about Philtown's other landmark projects, you may call us at 637-8936, 637-8919, 818-1977, 818-1266 or at 0917-8272549 or email us at mdfoz@philtown.com.ph

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From runway to rock
Robby Mananquil's new band page C2
Karmakoma!

Super exclusive
INXS In excess page D1

We all want to see
'Kubrador' page E1

We're all
Airheads page D2

Photography: MARK NICDAO of WILDBUNCH STUDIOS assisted by Charles Lu, Kay Siongco and Ralph Hilaga
Styling: PAM QUIÑONES
Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Hair and Makeup ROBBIE PINERA
Cover models: PAMELA and ALEXANDER in NIKE AIR

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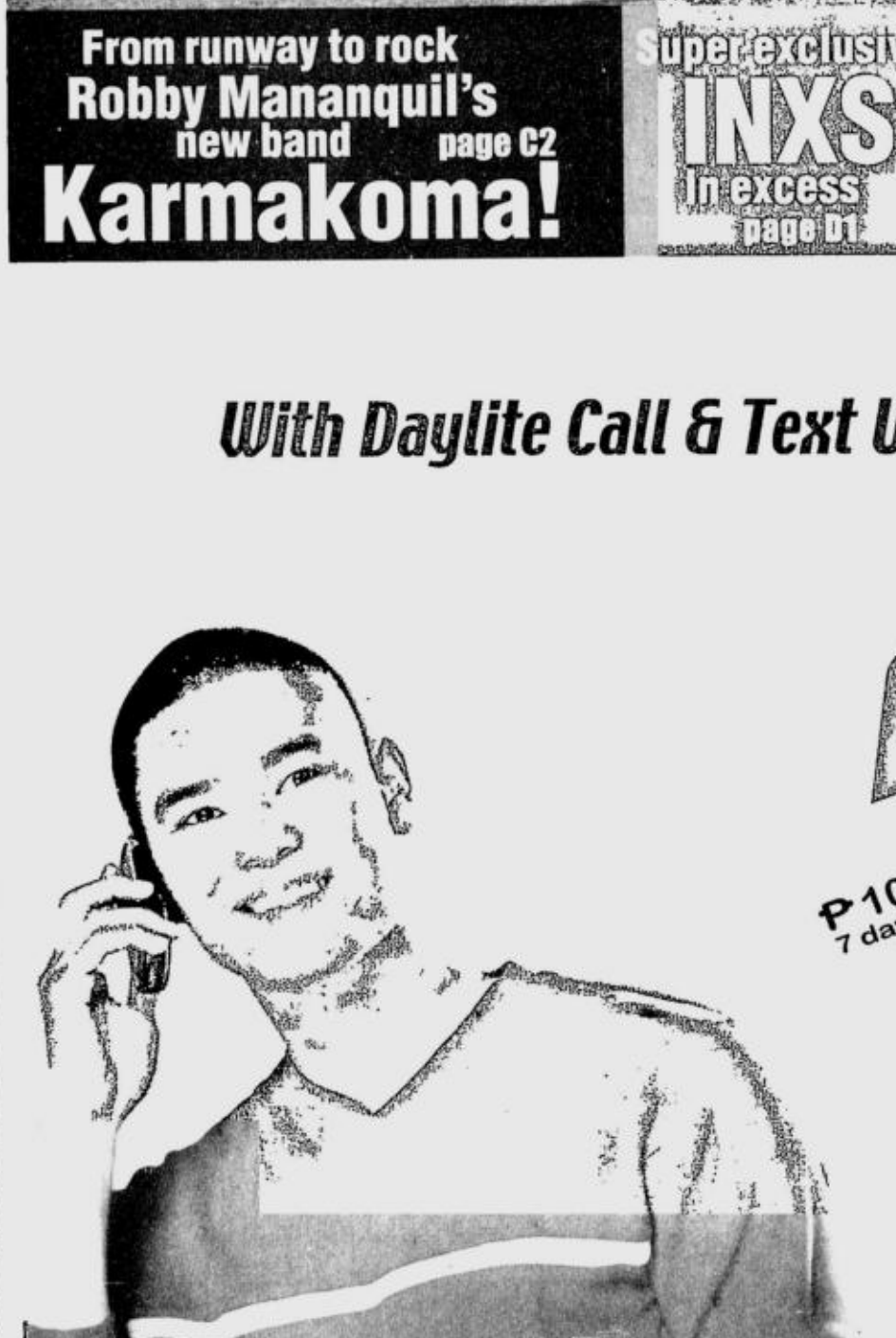

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It ain't emo that's for sure

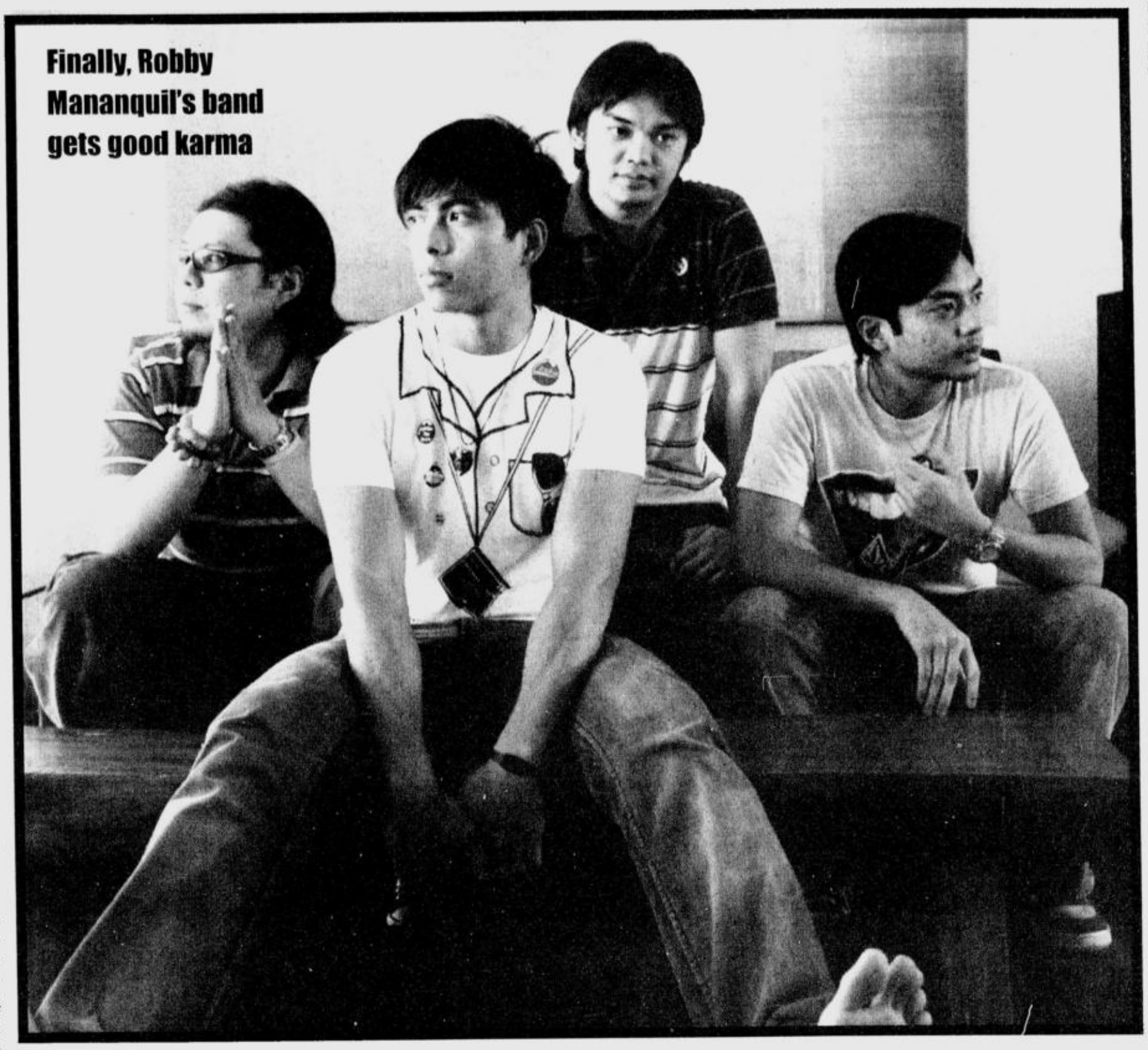
By Stephanie Bynes

IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME to be in the music scene, it would be now, when indie artists are plucked from near obscurity and transformed into the next big thing. Pop culture-savvy kids are not only tuning into the likes of media phenoms like Bamboo, Rivermaya, Pedicab and Sandwich—bands that not only have a lock on the airwaves but on commercials and hugely popular collaborative projects with other artists—but on young bands no one's ever heard of. Bars like Saguijo have paved the way for upstarts with no resumé to step up the plate and serve up some brand new music.

"The golden gate is open right now," says musician/artist/model Robby Mananquil. He's referring to the industry's openness to signing up new bands and the general public's embrace of up-and-coming artists. Not so before, when most shows and commercials were happy to plumb the music archives of international artists and use the stuff—illegally—for their soundtracks. These days, it's not unknown for some singer to make the transition from bar chanteuse to McDonald's endorser faster than you can say "record deal."

Robby, who's made a name for himself DJing at events and parties, set up a band with Ted Camacho, a friend from La Salle Greenhills, where they both graduated. Both had several band notches on their belt and had come to admire each other's work, though they had never thought to team up till recently. Ted, the drummer of the band, invited his friend Pat Co to be the vocalist and rhythm guitarist. Ian Tan, bass, joined after he'd been recommended by a friend.

Finally, Robby Mananquil's band gets good karma



Waking up from a coma

Why Karmakoma? "Before we all came together as a band, we felt that our (good) karma as musicians was on hold," says Robby. "Now, we are finally able to express ourselves through our music. We woke up from the coma the moment we jammed. We know a lot of people out there can relate their own meandering experiences to what we felt before. We

intend to keep this 'good karma' going as long as we can." And though their personal successes have managed to find itself on stasis, they have big plans for the future.

Their first gig at Six Underground, the fundraising benefit to raise funds for cancer-stricken DJ Benjo Marquez, was a hit. "I wouldn't say the audience was throwing chairs or going loco," Robby says with a laugh. "But they were giving really good positive energy."

No big surprise there. Though they had previously practiced only five times before their first gig, the resulting performance echoed early indie superstar. And though Robby has spent most of his professional career modeling on the ramp or in front of the lens, these guys just aren't in the habit of overselling things. Take their sound, which after much discussion, they've decided to call "garage indie rock with a disco-punk twist." None of their musical references are painfully obscure—unlike poser groups who tend to namedrop ridiculously obscure names simply for the cool points—which makes the members more accessible to an audience sick of tired "indie" bands who think painting on some eyeliner and screaming bad poetry into a megaphone counts as music. Yeah right. Throw in a mix of influences as wide-ranging as jazz, metal, blues, hip-hop, electronica and rock art music and you've got a band with a healthy appreciation for any music. Period.

"I listen to a lot of electronica, trip hop, broken beats and drum and bass," says Pat, the vocalist. Growing up during the height of '80s glam rock infused Pat's taste with a penchant for kitsch. "Whitesnake, Skid Row, Guns and Roses are a few of my influences and all those cheesy glam rock bands," he says. He's sincere in his appreciation, unlike some artists who tend to lace most of their remarks with a sneer until everything is dripping in sarcasm. He's also been nicknamed the funny guy in the group. "He's cool, funny and always game." says Robby. Pat's devotion to guitar-playing, a passion of his since high school at Xavier, is unrivaled. He recently purchased a 1960 classic Les Paul reissue (that's a guitar, by the way, which on eBay retails for more than $5,000) "because of Slash." A member of two other bands, Pat is a fan of all music. "I love the blues," he says. "I love southern rock bands. I love ethnic rock. I love Cynthia Alexander. I love guitars."

Ecstatic moments

Ted says, "My passion for music serves as an outlet to release my thoughts and feelings. It's through music that I'm able to experience ecstatic moments while performing with a band in front of a live audience and also draw deep inspiration while writing songs. I love you. No more fighting. Don't forget to erase this part..." Not a bad way to get a recruiter's attention. Platitudes of love should garner a second glance, if not a second meeting. Not that it matters to Camacho who happens to be VP for marketing of a real estate firm. With more than 6,000 real estate agents under his command, he's got it made. But it's his role as Karmakoma's resident drummer that brings him the most satisfaction as Mick Jagger would say. Music is in his blood—he comes from a family of musicians (and real estate agents—his father is CEO of the company he works for). Since age 10, he's been banging away at the drum set. "I listen to all kinds of music but my favorite bands include arts and crafts artists like Broken Social Scene, American Analog Set and Stars," he says. "I also dig Bloc Party and The Rakes."

Bassist Ian says "I enjoy music for what it is," though he's an engineer by profession, Tan's got the goods to get this show on the road. Tan states simply. "I love it. I've been collecting musical instruments for as long as I can remember." He started playing bass at 11, performing praise music for his church group. These days, he also performs with a hip-hop band, a complementary sound to Karmakoma's. "For the past 10 years or so, the most interesting beats rhythmically and dynamically had been from disc jockeys and programmers of hip-hop music. And he gives Karmakoma a little bit of that flavor," says Robby. "That beat that gets people's heads moving."

Far mellower

When he was in Norway for one year as a 14-year-old exchange student (on leave from Ateneo), Robby formed a band named Horse Called War with his Norwegian friends. They played heavy metal. "When I listen to the songs I wrote back then," he says, "I just laugh and laugh." If he's amused by the songs he penned then, the current tunes he's written for Karmakoma's playlist are far mellower. "The songs I wrote at 14 were really loud," he confesses. After a recent New York stint where he took up a songwriting course at NYU, Robby's been putting together some original tunes for the band. Growing up listening to bands like Megadeath, Metallica and Pantera has formed his rudiments, yet Karmakoma's sound is way bit softer with way more range because of his recent influences. "Right now, I really really dig Bloc Party, The Strokes, Morningwood, 65daysofstatic, The Marz Volta, Jaga Jazzist and Thom Yorke. By the way, did I mention Bloc Party?" laughs Robby.

"We're a good combination," Robby says of his bandmates. "We all bring different elements which fuse really well together. We're like most bands out there right now. We just wanna sing our song," Robby says.

Karmakoma will be performing at Saguijo (7612 Guijo St., San Antonio Village, Makati) on Aug. 17, & Sept. 5. The band is also participating in the kickoff for San Mig Light Draft Fresh Nights this September. For more on Karmakoma, call 09175298804 or e-mail: karmakarmacoma@gmail.com

Getting loaded with Sago

By Joe De Jesus

THE MEMBERS OF THE RAdioactive Sago Project, the intellectually stimulating and most exciting live-act jazz-punk-funk-rock outfit in the land, were among the first to avail of Pwede! Card, the first reloadable all-in-one prepaid card from telecom giants PLDT and Smart, as soon as it hit the stores. They were surprised about what it can do.

You can call it the mother of all prepaid cards because Pwede! Card can be used for the following services: PLDT landlines (post paid and prepaid); PLDT and SmarTalk payphones; Smart and Talk 'N Text cell phones; NDD, IDD and PLDT Vibe.

The Pwede! Card offers affordable rates as these sensible working-class musicians found out when they used it to contact each member for the rehearsal.

"*Pare, nagulat ako. Pwede palang may ganung klaseng* prepaid card. It's the great equalizer. We admit that although we've been playing for seven years, with two successful full-length albums and lots of gigs, we still don't earn that much. *Nagdidildil pa rin kami ng isaw at gulaman. Maralita pa rin kami.* (We still survive on barbecued pork innards and sweet ice-cold jelly juice. We're still poor). Having Pwede! Card is a big help for us," said Lourd de Veyra, the RSP frontman-composer and spoken word torchbearer when I caught up with them one late afternoon. The location was a homey restaurant with a rehearsal studio behind it along Maginhawa Street, Teachers' Village in Quezon City.

Working-class musicians

Having day jobs is important for each member. They know that being a full-time musician playing exclusively for one band won't be enough to pay the rent.

Lourd works as copyeditor, columnist and writer for several monthly glossy magazines. His brother Francis, bass guitar player of Sago, teaches at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Makiling. Pards Tupas, trombone player, is with the Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO). Wawi Anzano, trumpet player, is with the Cainta Municipal Marching Band, with which Tupas is also playing. Jay Gapasin, on percussion, sidelines for another jazz band called Wunjo. Junji Lerma, lead guitar player, does session work for many artists. Ryan, the new sax player, is still finishing his marketing degree. Arwin Nava plays drums for a number of jazz and afro-latin groups.

Despite their busy schedules, Sago members find time for the completion of their third full-length album titled "Tang****o Maraming Nagugutom sa Mundo Fashionista Ka Pa Rin," which will be released bef ore the year ends.

Eat smart. Eat fruit.

Fruit is known to be humankind's natural diet. It is the diet of Leonardo da Vinci (according to his notebooks), mathematicians Einstein and Pythagoras. It has been advocated by everyone from philosophers such as Plato and Nietzsche, to political leaders such as Benjamin Franklin and Gandhi to modern pop icons such as Paul McCartney and Bob Marley. The once-upon-a-time fruitarian Steve Jobs used a fruit to name his computer company.

is the natural

Judith Wurtman, Ph.D., research scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, finds that eating fruits can help you feel anxiety-free and relaxed. The amino acid tryptophan, that may also be found in fruits, helps the brain produce serotonin. Low levels of serotonin are associated with insomnia, anxiety and depression. Pineapples are a rich source of tryptophan, which may help increase serotonin levels and help improve one's sense of overall well-being.

Fruits also contain thousands of antioxidants and phytochemicals that may help promote brain health. "Many brain disorders incur oxidative damage," observes Lester Packer, Ph.D., nutritional biochemist at the University of California at Berkeley. Therefore, antioxidants may be especially helpful to people already suffering brain damage, or may help prevent it. So packing your diet with fruits is totally essential.

Let's all be smart and enjoy the fruits and the labor they do for our mind and body.

Take a day.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that real fruit is good for you. But how much of this sweet stuff do you really need? Nutrition experts recommend at least 2 servings of real fruit or fruit juice everyday for a healthier life.

Let's break it down... One solid serving would be half a cup of canned fruit. If you want to drink it, 3/4 cup of 100% fruit juice is also equal to 1 serving. Whether you belong to the field of Einstein or McCartney, 2-a-day fruit servings will do the same wonders for you.

And those wonders include VITAMIN C that may help prevent common infections. PHYTOCHEMICALS that stimulate enzymes that fight carcinogens (cancer-causing agents). And FIBER that flushes wastes out of your digestive system faster. When you get rid of toxins everyday, you keep certain cancers and heart disease at bay. A healthy body complements a healthy mind.

So remember, take Del Monte fruits twice a day. No preservatives. 100% real fruit.

a DAY

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

intend to keep this 'good karma' going as long as we can." And though their personal successes have managed to find itself in stasis, they have big plans for the future.

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Far mellower

When he was in Norway for one year as a 14-year-old exchange student (on leave from Ateneo), Robby formed a band named Horse Called War with his Norwegian friends. They played heavy metal. "When I listen to the songs I wrote back then," he says, "I just laugh and laugh." If he's amused by the songs he penned then, the current tunes he's written for Karmakoma's playlist are far mellower. "The songs I wrote at 14 were really loud," he confesses. After a recent New York stint where he took up a songwriting course at NYU, Robby's been putting together some original tunes for the band. Growing up listening to bands like Megadeath, Metallica and Pantera has formed his rudiments, yet Karmakoma's sound is way bit softer with way more range because of his recent influences. "Right now, I really really dig Bloc Party, The Strokes, Morningwood, 65daysofstatic, The Marz Volta, Jaga Jazzist and Thom Yorke. By the way, did I mention Bloc Party?" laughs Robby.

"We're a good combination," Robby says of his bandmates. "We all bring different elements which fuse really well together. We're like most bands out there right now. We just wanna sing our song," Robby says.

Karmakoma will be performing at Saguijo (7612 Guijo St., San Antonio Village, Makati) on Aug. 17, & Sept. 5. The band is also participating in the kickoff for San Mig Light Draft Fresh Nights this September. For more on Karmakoma, call 09175298804 or e-mail: karmakarmacoma@gmail.com

Getting loaded with Sago

By Joe De Jesus

THE MEMBERS OF THE RAdioactive Sago Project, the intellectually stimulating and most exciting live-act jazz-punk-funk-rock outfit in the land, were among the first to avail of Pwede! Card, the first reloadable all-in-one prepaid card from telecom giants PLDT and Smart, as soon as it hit the stores. They were surprised about what it can do.

You can call it the mother of all prepaid cards because Pwede! Card can be used for the following services: PLDT landlines (post paid and prepaid); PLDT and SmarTalk payphones; Smart and Talk 'N Text cell phones; NDD, IDD and PLDT Vibe.

The Pwede! Card offers affordable rates as these sensible working-class musicians found out when they used it to contact each member for the rehearsal.

"*Pare, nagulat ako. Pwede palang may ganung klaseng* prepaid card. It's the great equalizer. We admit that although we've been playing for seven years, with two successful full-length albums and lots of gigs, we still don't earn that much. *Nagdidildil pa rin kami ng isaw at gulaman. Maralita pa rin kami*. (We still survive on barbecued pork innards and sweet ice-cold jelly juice. We're still poor). Having Pwede! Card is a big help for us." said Lourd de Veyra, the RSP frontman-composer and spoken word torchbearer when I caught up with them one late afternoon. The location was a homey restaurant with a rehearsal studio behind it along Maginhawa Street, Teachers' Village in Quezon City.

Working-class musicians

Having day jobs is important for each member. They know that being a full-time musician playing exclusively for one band won't be enough to pay the rent.

Lourd works as copyeditor, columnist and writer for several monthly glossy magazines. His brother Francis, bass guitar player of Sago, teaches at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Makiling. Pards Tupas, trombone player, is with the Metro Manila Community Orchestra (MMCO). Wawi Anzano, trumpet player, is with the Cainta Municipal Marching Band, with which Tupas is also playing. Jay Gapasin, on percussion, sidelines for another jazz band called Wunjo. Junji Lerma, lead guitar player, does session work for many artists. Ryan, the new sax player, is still finishing his marketing degree. Arwin Nava plays drums for a number of jazz and afro-latin groups.

Despite their busy schedules, Sago members find time for the completion of their third full-length album titled "Tang**** o Maraming Nagugutom sa Mundo Fashionista Ka Pa Rin," which will be released before the year ends.

Eat smart. Eat fruit.

Fruit is known to be humankind's natural diet. It is the diet of Leonardo da Vinci (according to his notebooks), mathematicians Einstein and Pythagoras. It has been advocated by everyone from philosophers such as Plato and Nietzsche, to political leaders such as Benjamin Franklin and Gandhi to modern pop icons such as Paul McCartney and Bob Marley. The once-upon-a-time fruitarian Steve Jobs used a fruit to name his computer company.

is the

natural

Judith Wurtman, Ph.D., research scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, finds that eating fruits can help you feel anxiety-free and relaxed. The amino acid tryptophan, that may also be found in fruits, helps the brain produce serotonin. Low levels of serotonin are associated with insomnia, anxiety and depression. Pineapples are a rich source of tryptophan, which may help increase serotonin levels and help improve one's sense of overall well-being.

Fruits also contain thousands of antioxidants and phytochemicals that may help promote brain health. "Many brain disorders incur oxidative damage," observes Lester Packer, Ph.D., nutritional biochemist at the University of California at Berkeley. Therefore, antioxidants may be especially helpful to people already suffering brain damage, or may help prevent it. So packing your diet with fruits is totally essential.

Let's all be smart and enjoy the fruits and the labor they do for our mind and body.

Take

a day.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that real fruit is good for you. But how much of this sweet stuff do you really need? Nutrition experts recommend at least 2 servings of real fruit or fruit juice everyday for a healthier life.

Let's break it down... One solid serving would be half a cup of canned fruit. If you want to drink it, 3/4 cup of 100% fruit juice is also equal to 1 serving. Whether you belong to the field of Einstein or McCartney, 2-a-day fruit servings will do the same wonders for you.

And those wonders include VITAMIN C that may help prevent common infections. PHYTOCHEMICALS that stimulate enzymes that fight carcinogens (cancer-causing agents). And FIBER that flushes wastes out of your digestive system faster. When you get rid of toxins everyday, you keep certain cancers and heart disease at bay. A healthy body complements a healthy mind.

So remember,
take Del Monte fruits
twice a day. No preservatives.
100% real fruit.

a DAY

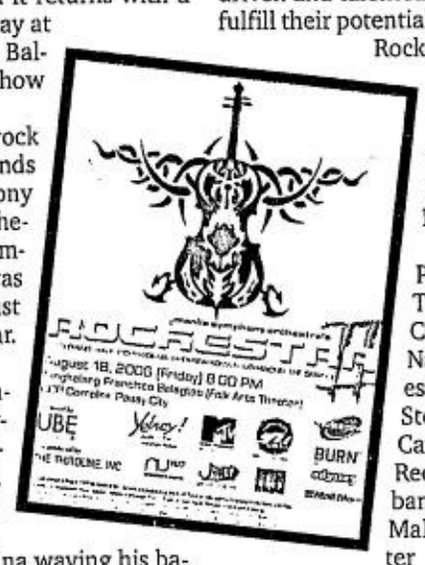
RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

A rocking sequel

By Kristine Lim

FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET, more powerful than a locomotive, able to bring together two totally different musical genres in a single night. Yes, boys and girls, Rockestra is back and it returns with a vengeance on Aug. 18, Friday at the Tanghalang Francisco Balagtas (Folk Arts Theater). Show begins at 8 p.m.

Bringing together the rock scene's most exciting bands with the Manila Symphony Orchestra, Rockestra's phenomenal experiment of combining rock with classical was such a success that we just had to do it again this year. But better.



This year's lineup includes The Dawn, led by Jett Pangan, Hale, 6cyclemind, the Itchyworms, Urbandub and Up Dharma Down.

With Professor Toti Molina waving his baton and leading on the Manila Symphony Orchestra, their passion for music is always evident in their performances.

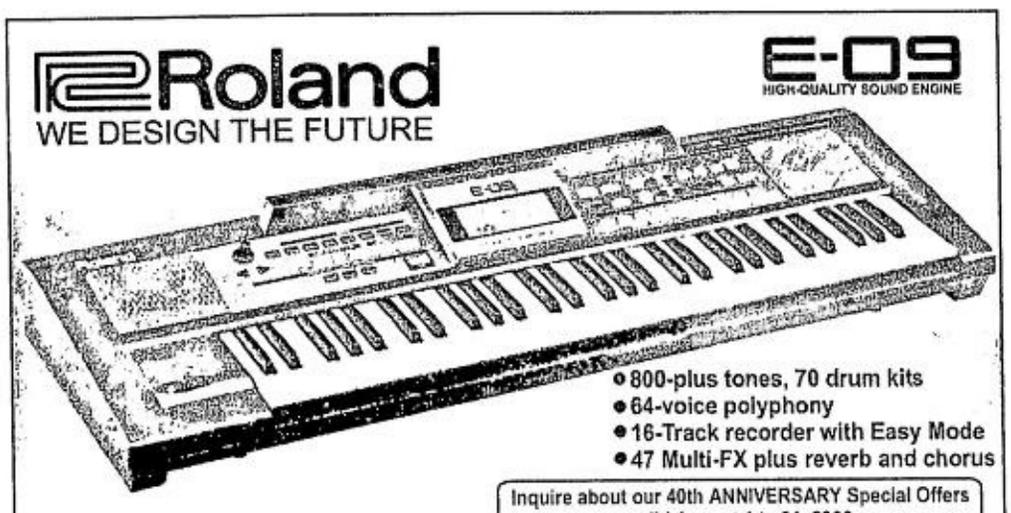
Last year's Rockestra was an enormous success, not only because of the thousands of music lovers who came to the event but also by the bonds formed by MSO with the rock bands. Sugarfree, Sandwich, Cambio, Imago, Twisted Halo and Silent Sanctuary were genuinely thrilled to hear their songs backed-up by a full orchestra and were as blown away as their fans.

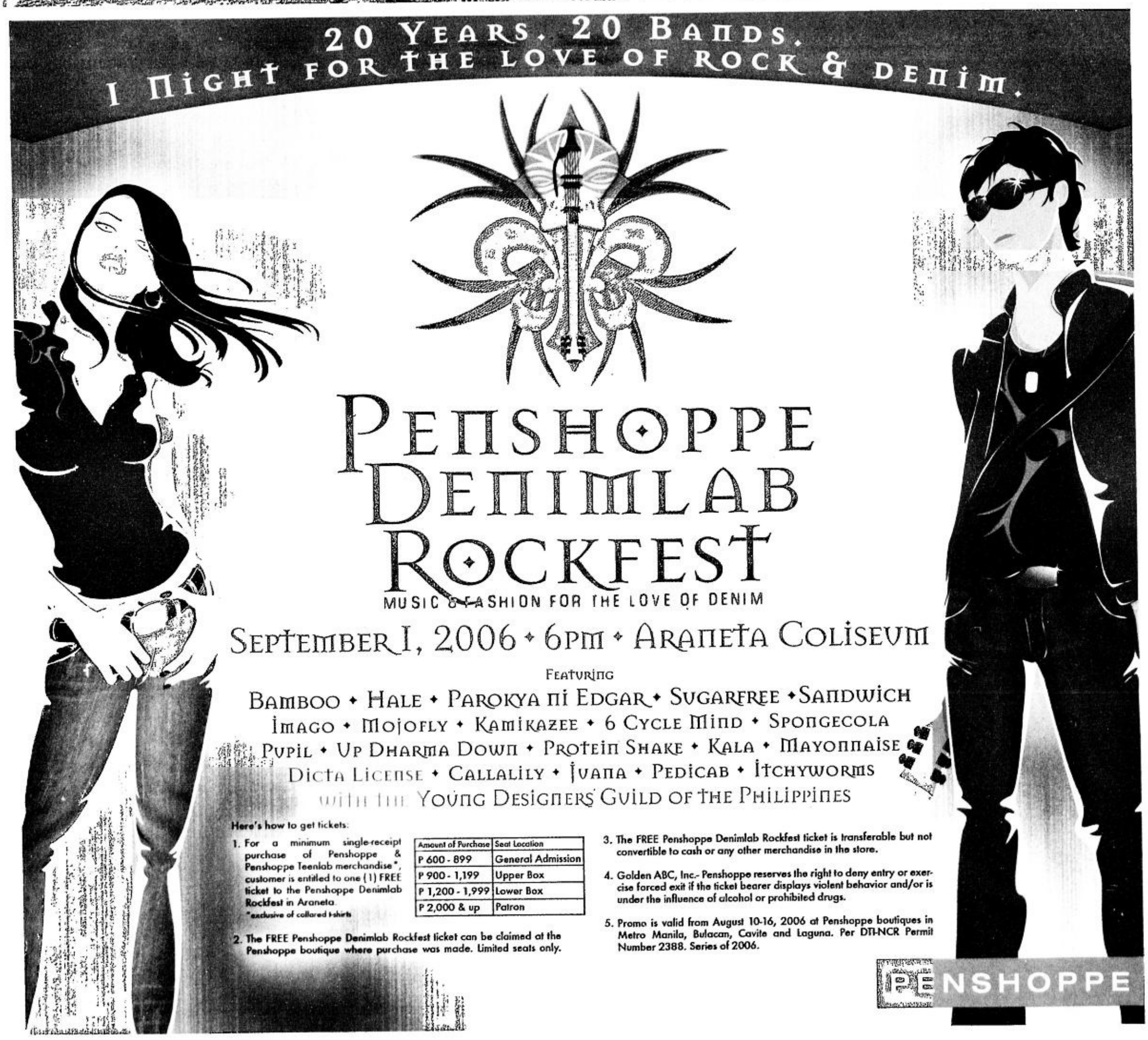
Rockestra II will benefit PREDIS, the Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists, an organization that benefits driven and talented kids and enables them to fulfill their potential as musicians.

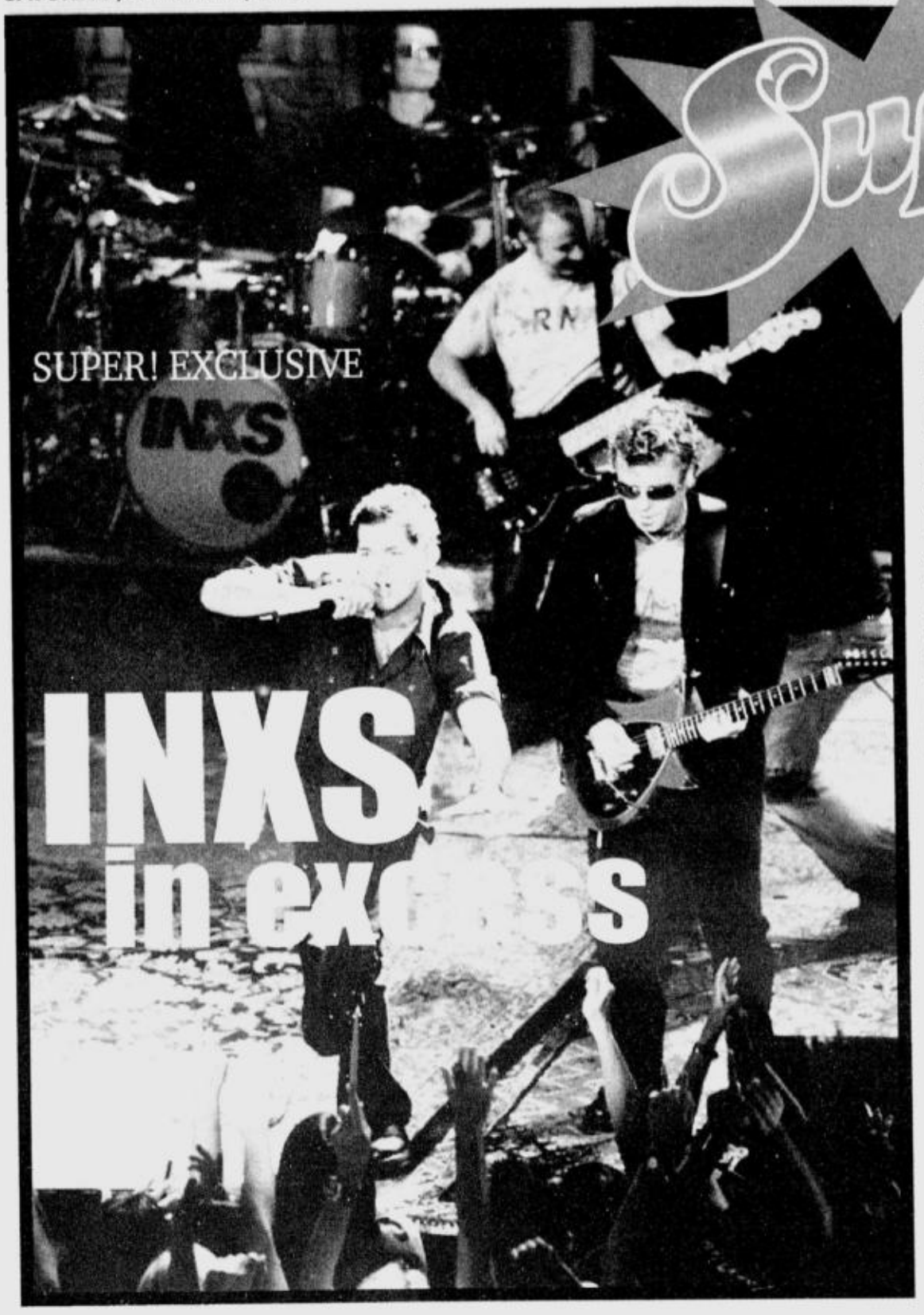
Rockestra II is supported by Yehey.com, MTV Philippines, WLSFM 97.1, Timezone Games, Burn, NU 107, JAM 88.3, RJFM 100.3, Odyssey, Mail and More.

Ticket prices are Php1,112/719/399/200/86. Tickets are available at the CCP Ticket Booth, major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate, Galleria, Cavite & Pampanga), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills), Ayala Center Inc. Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorietta 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891.9999 for inquiries and reservations. You may also call 793.2121 or visit www.manilasymphonyorchestra.com.

For more information, call UBE MEDIA at +632 7932121 or e-mail manilasymphonyorchestra@gmail.com







INXS' Andrew Farriss gives the lowdown on their new album, new tour and hot new frontman

By Angela V. Ignacio

ON AUG. 15, THE Big Dome is about to get flooded in a major way—and we're not talking about rainwater.

After an eight-year musical hiatus, legendary Aussie band INXS is dead set to generate gigantic waves again, this time with hottie "Rock Star" champ JD Fortune turning on the steam full blast as its brand-spanking new frontman.

The band will be heading to Manila as the first stop in the Asian leg of their worldwide "Switch On" Tour, with upcoming gigs in Australia and Europe nabbing the sold-out status even though they're scheduled much later this year.

Rock saga

The iPod generation might not remember any of the old INXS songs, except maybe for the one Adam Garcia strip-danced to in the chick flick "Coyote Ugly" (which was the #1 hit "Need You Tonight," FYI). So for the sake of those who were still in diapers during the band's heyday, here's a quick recap of the band's illustrious rock saga.

The band was born in the late '70s when the Farriss brothers (Tim on guitar, Andrew on keyboards and Jon on drums) hooked up with buddies Kirk Pengilly (saxophone), Garry Beers (bass) and Michael Hutchence (vocals). The band's signature synth-pop sound and sexy lyrics made such a splash in the '80s and '90s that they went on to produce more than 10 albums, a dozen Billboard singles, 4,000 sold-out live gigs and millions of fans all over the world. Apart from "Need You Tonight," their smash hits include "Never Tear Us Apart," "Suicide Blonde," "Elegantly Wasted" and "New Sensation," which provides the opening track for the "Rock Star" reality TV series.

Hutchence's untimely passing in 1997 had the band struggling to stay afloat until a brilliant marketing strategy in the form of the "Rock Star: INXS" helped them find their new lead singer.

Since then, the members of INXS have bounced back into the music scene with a vengeance, and they're certainly wasting no time in reminding the world why they made (and are still making) rock 'n roll history.

Music meister

We recently caught a quick one-on-one with no less than the band's main music meister, Andrew Farriss, while the guys were taking a breather back home in Australia after their recently concluded North American tour.

Over the phone, he doesn't mince words when he talks about how happy the band is with their charismatic new singer, performance- and rapport-wise. In fact, while Fortune's singing their songs, Farriss is singing his praises. "It works well," he reveals. "At first, when we started touring, I think JD was kind of like a bit surprised at what it was like, and then he got used to it really quickly with us. We get on really great now, and there are no problems, so it's good."

In "Rock Star:INXS"'s final showdown, it became apparent to some viewers that the band was having a hard time choosing between Fortune and Marty Casey. But in the end, it was Fortune's "special something" that nailed him the coveted prize. "I think JD has a special talent that some of the other people didn't really have which suits INXS," Farriss muses. "I think the other contestants are great singers ... but for INXS, JD's the best."

Surprisingly, the band hasn't completely forgotten about the other "Rock Star" contenders. They've asked Casey and his band, The Lovehammers, as well as Fil-Aussie second runner-up MiG Ayesa to open for them in their tour. Meanwhile, female crowd favorites Deanna Johnston and Suzie McNeil have lent their sultry vocals to a couple of tracks in their latest album "Switch"—"Hot Girls" and "God's Top Ten," respectively. "It's good for the contestants and it's good for INXS," he adds. With the band's magnanimous attitude towards them, no wonder there were no sore losers in the competition. At least, we hope not.

Changes

The title of their album seems to speak volumes about all the changes that the band has gone through, but their audience doesn't seem to mind it at all. This is evident in the band's ability to fill up venues left and right since the start of their tour, despite their lengthy break from the touring circuit. "Sometimes we've changed our musical style a little bit here and there ... [But] most of our fans stayed with us."

INXS has made a ton of chart-busting albums to date, so what sets "Switch" apart from its formidable predecessors? "Well, the new album obviously has a new singer," Farriss laughs. No, seriously. "We're very excited about this album because JD himself has contributed some of the songwriting. It means JD is part of the creative process of the album, and it's also important for us because we've moved forward as a band and that we have a future with JD, which is great."

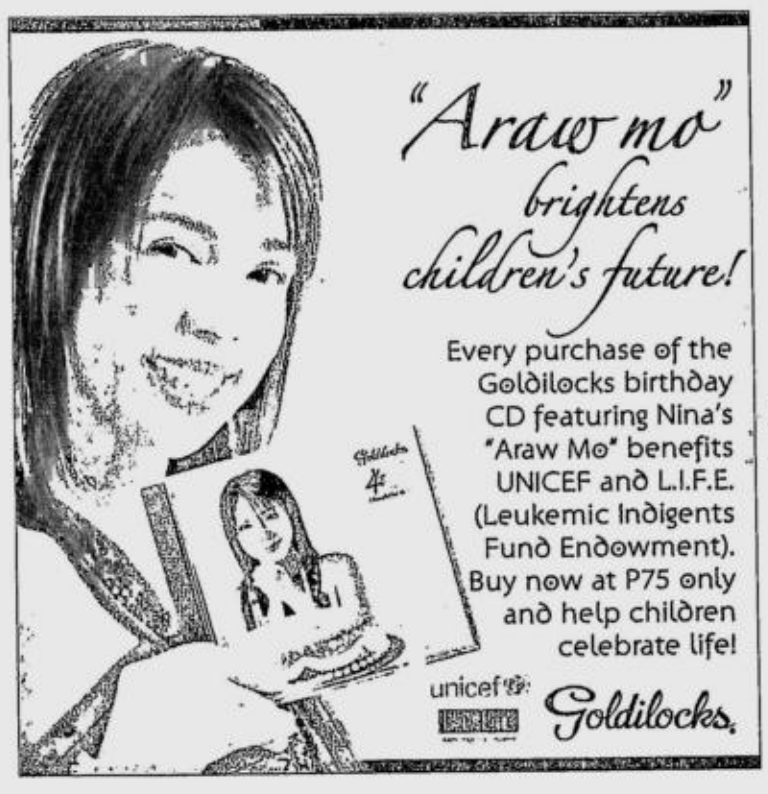
Farris counts "Pretty Vegas," the soaring, sweeping ballad "Afterglow," the lighter-waving Hutchence tribute "God's Top Ten," the earnest track "Hungry," and the radio romper "Hot Girls" among his favorites. Fans of the show know that "Pretty Vegas" was the serendipitous product of the workshops, where Fortune wrote the lyrics and the melody for the base music that Farriss had made. If anything, the track was a taste of good things to come for the Farriss/Fortune songwriting tandem. Talk about major chemistry.

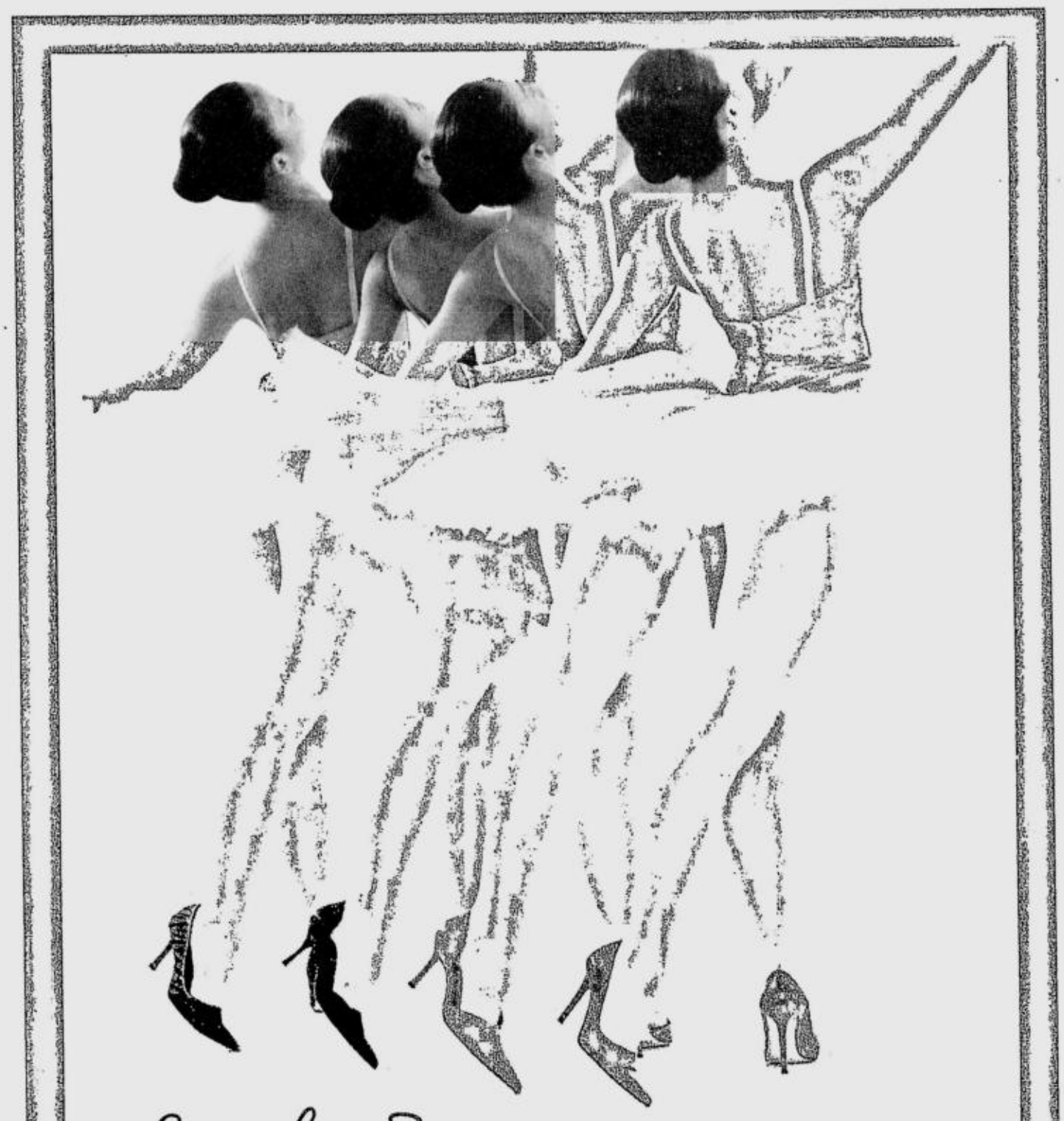
Bridging the (age) gap

The band has spent more than 25 years in the biz, yet its creative genius shows no signs of stopping. On the other hand, longevity does have its drawbacks, starting with the age gap issue that most veteran bands inevitably wrestle with. Farriss doesn't think it's a problem, though, and for obvious reasons. "First of all, JD is quite a lot younger than us, and that's good because a lot of the younger people really enjoy JD." And boy, do we ever.

But gorgeous younger frontman aside, their catchy musical style has everything to do with the band's staying power. Little has changed from their gritty, groovy brand of rock that's as smooth as a casanova's moves, and that's not a bad thing. "I think all of the older

INXS/ D2





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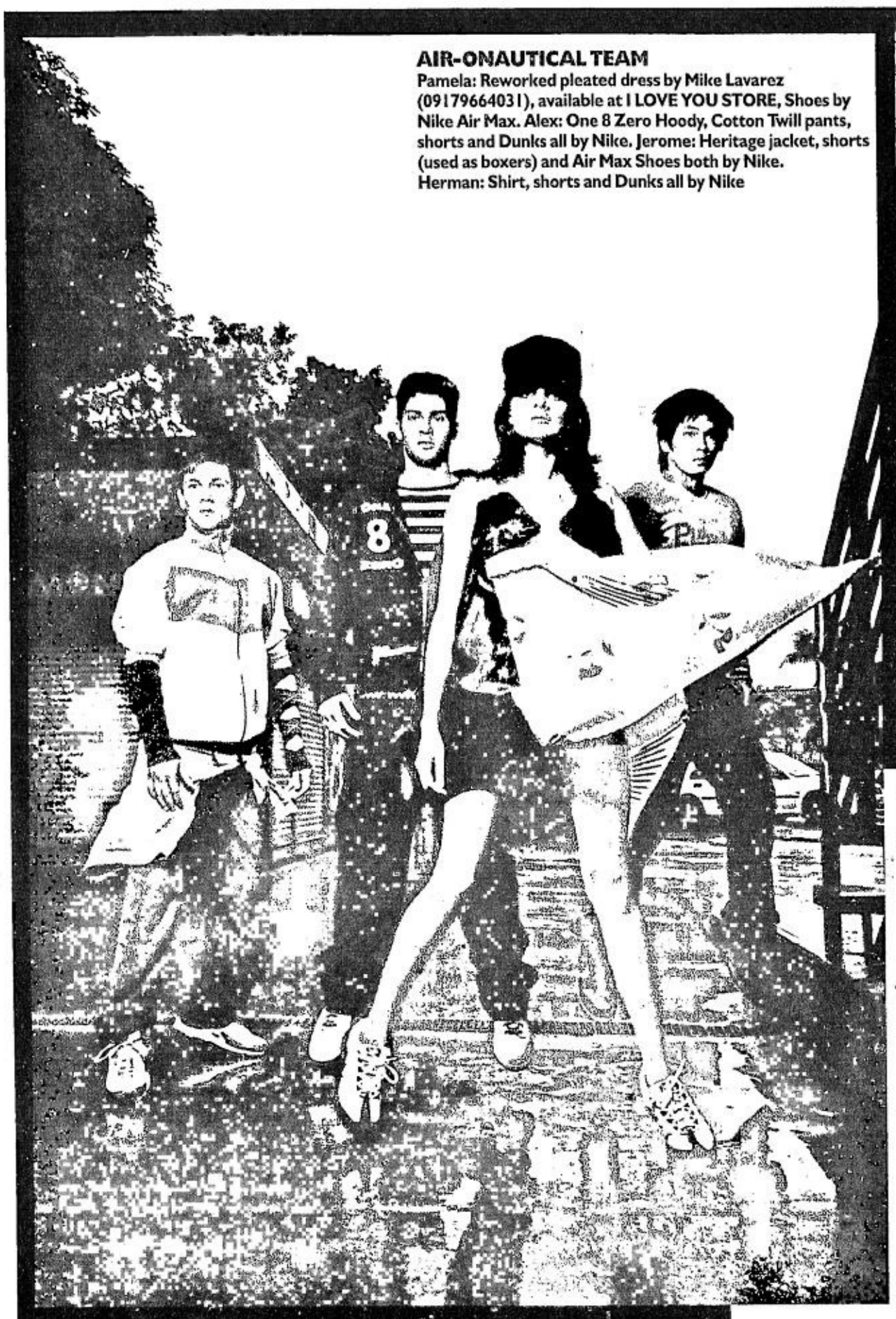


AIR-ONAUTICAL TEAM
Pamela: Reworked pleated dress by Mike Lavarez (09179664031), available at I LOVE YOU STORE, Shoes by Nike Air Max. Alex: One 8 Zero Hoody, Cotton Twill pants, shorts and Dunks all by Nike. Jerome: Heritage jacket, shorts (used as boxers) and Air Max Shoes both by Nike. Herman: Shirt, shorts and Dunks all by Nike

NIKE AIR NOW

We're all airheads

And we don't mean it in a bad w

By Pam Pastor

And the air we breathe will take us
The air we breathe
And no, the loneliness won't break us
Cos I know all we need
Is the air we breathe
—Alisha's Attic

WE WERE SURROUNDED BY AIR that day the plane I was riding almost flipped because of wake turbulence. I gripped my armrests and started chanting a prayer of sorts, *"I don't want to die, I don't want to die ..."* The plane landed in one piece—I like to believe that the air helped bring us back down safely.

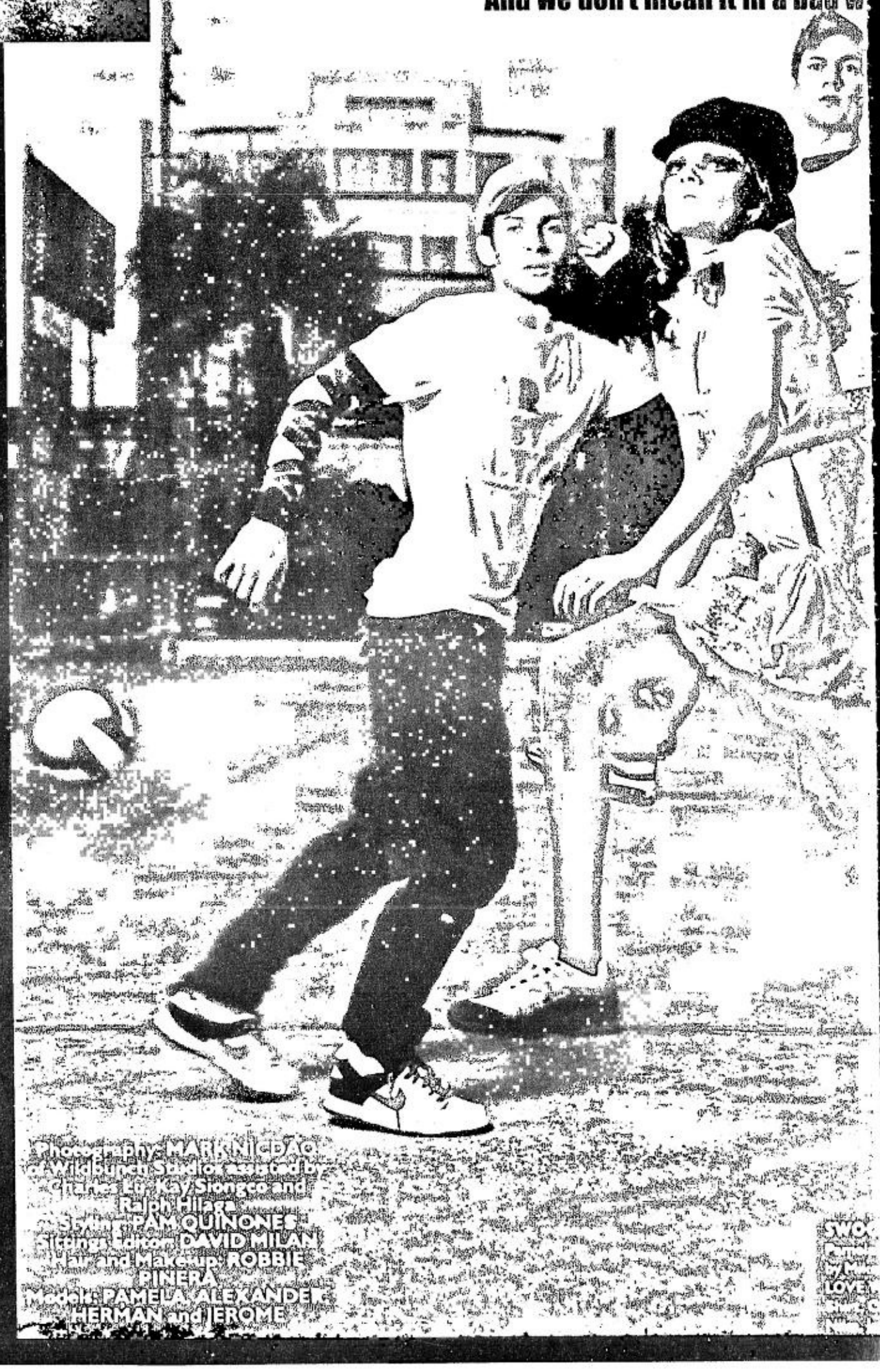
Air has been a constant, intangible presence in our lives—one that we ignore but would undoubtedly miss if it disappeared, just like water, our friends and the other things we take for granted.

We don't realize it but it's seen every second of our lives—not just when we're at our best but when we're at our dirtiest, our ugliest, our messiest. The air knows all your secrets.

The air has dried your tears and even your hair—on your crazy busy days. The air was with you when you went beyond your limits—when you parasailed, when you bungee-jumped, when you created your biggest adventures.

And the air would never leave, especially not when you're moving fast, moving forward, running, flying to get to where you want to be. It would only whip your face to remind you that it will always be there and that it would never disappear—unless you went into outer space.

AIR-UP THERE
Pamela: Jersey dress by Sales Trends (09178513141). Cropped cape by Creative Dept. Store., Shoes by Nike Air Max. Herman: Shirt, cotton twill pants and Dunks all by Nike.



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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

INXS in excess

'I think the other contestants are great singers . . . but for INXS, JD's the best'

From page D1

songs stood up well in the test of time—the lyrics are good, and a lot of people have said that [our] funky grooves kind of works for anyone of any age. It doesn't matter what age you are, people just seem to like the music," he says matter-of-factly.

For their Manila tour, those who have been INXS fans for decades need not feel left out, because the band will also be performing some of their golden oldies alongside their current chart toppers. JD Fortune sashaying onstage to "Need You Tonight"? Pass the drool bucket, please.

Stating the obvious

When Farriss says INXS is one of the greatest live bands in the world, he doesn't come off as arrogant. To most rock enthusiasts everywhere, he's simply stating the obvious. The band throws itself into every live performance, and that's the one thing about INXS that hasn't changed a bit. "We try to make our live shows as good as we possibly can," he explains. "It just feels really great out there at the moment with JD as our singer, and the audiences are really enjoying the shows. We're really happy with the shows we've been putting on, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do."

With their hot new songs and hot new lead singer, he can definitely count on it.

Catch "INXS: Switch On Manila" on Aug. 15, 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. For tickets, call Ticketnet at 911-5555.

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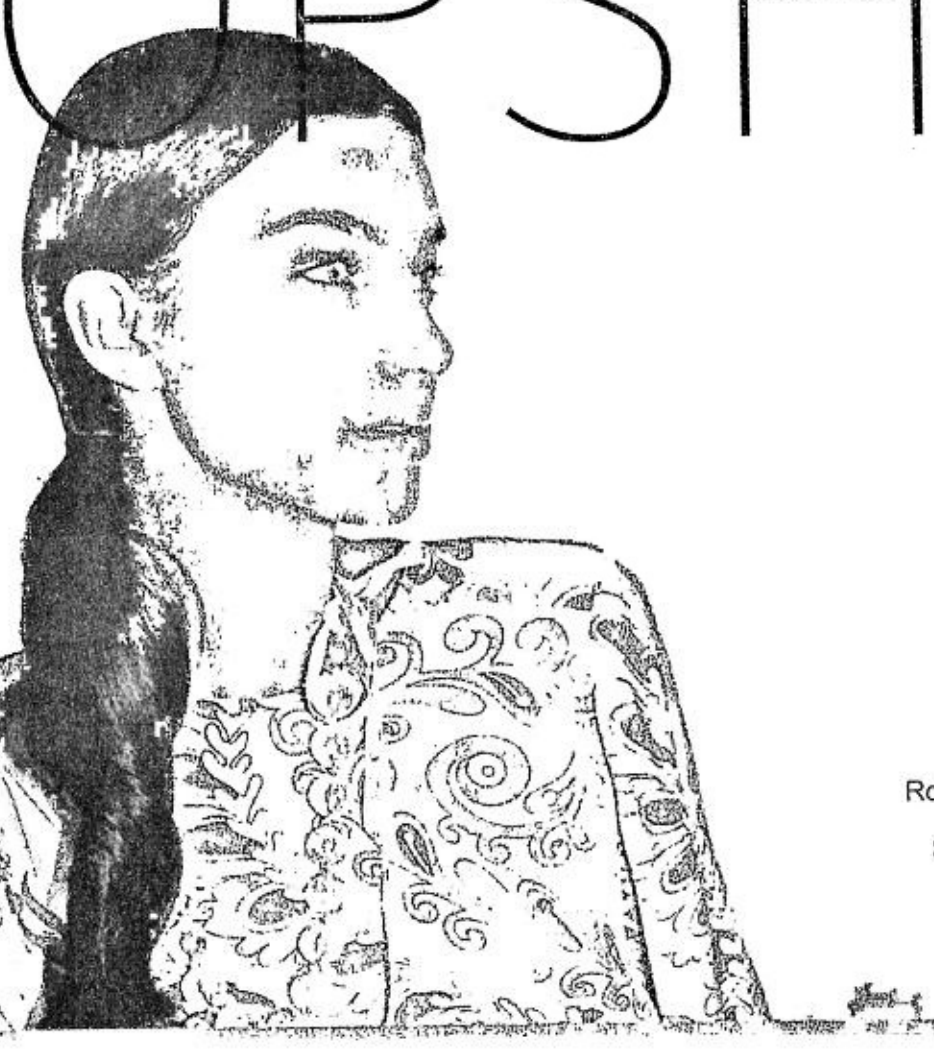
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TOPMAN

SM Advantage lines up more perks and privileges for members

SM Advantage, the country's biggest, most exciting loyalty program continues its dynamic thrust to provide members with the opportunities to get more value for their shopping money

Today, over two million members enjoy exciting and exclusive privileges every time they shop at any branch of SM Supermalls, Mall of Asia or participating establishments of the SM Retail Group. These exclusive privileges include:

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- Exciting freebies and discounts in participating restaurants, specialty stores and service shops.

In addition to these exclusive privileges that come with every visit to SM Supermalls, Mall of Asia and branches of the SM Retail Group, members can now earn points

- everytime they gas up at Petron
- every time they check-in at Taal Vista Hotel

The loyalty program has also expanded the versatility of the SM Advantage points. Now members can:

- convert their SM Advantage points into PAL Mabuhay Miles.
- get a P100,000 One-year Accident Insurance coverage from Philam for only 20 SM Advantage points.

SM Advantage members can look forward to more exciting promos and privileges that will be implemented in the coming days. All of these are on top of the points that they earn every time they shop at partner retail establishments.

How to win a shopping spree

(1.) SM Advantage members who renew their expired /expiring cards from July 1 to Sept. 15, 2006 are automatically qualified to join the raffle promo.

(2.) A member who renews his card is entitled to one (1) electronic raffle entry.

The member will be notified of his entry through a print-out which he will get upon claiming his new card at the Customer Service Counter.

(3.) Prizes at stake:

- **GRAND WINNER**
  One (1) winner of 500,000 points equivalent to P500,000
- **MINOR WINNERS**
  Fifty (50) winners of a total of 500,000 points equivalent to P500,000
  (10 winners of 10,000 points each / per draw)

(4.) All winning and non-winning entries for the minor draws are automatically included in the **Grand Draw**.

(5.) All entries will be monitored electronically based on the members' card numbers. A member who wins in the minor draw may still be qualified to win in the Grand Draw. **There is no need to fill out a raffle coupon.**

(6.) SM Advantage will not be responsible for fraudulent renewal of lost cards that were not reported.

(7.) 20% prize tax shall be shouldered by the winner.

Prizes, net of tax will be credited as reward points to the winner's SM Advantage account on the second Sunday after the draw date.

(8.) Prizes are non-transferable to another card account.

Prizes are not convertible to cash or kind

(9.) **Draw Dates:**
July 19 / Aug. 02 / Aug.17 / Sept. 06 / Sept. 20

Renewing your membership

Renew your SM Advantage membership and continue enjoying rewards and benefits every time you shop at participating establishments.

- Points of expired cards will be forfeited starting Oct. 1, 2006.
- Renew your card before it expires so you can continue to enjoy earning reward points!

No more 'jueteng,' 'Kubrador' opens Aug. 16

By Pepe Diokno

THERE COMES A TIME in every teenager's life when he must stop watching "Life As We Know It" for his weekly fill of drama. This year, let this time be Aug. 16. There also comes a time in every A/B Metro Manila resident's life when he is jolted by the poverty and corruption around him. This should happen everyday, but if it hasn't, let this be on Aug. 16.

On Aug. 16, Jeffrey Jetturian's "Kubrador" opens in theaters around Metro Manila. Before anything, though, two things probably need explanation. A "kubrador" is one who collects bets for "jueteng," while jueteng is an illegal numbers game popular in the country.

NO MORE/ E4

Unlike this article's title, 'Kubrador' is anything but corny. Super says see it!

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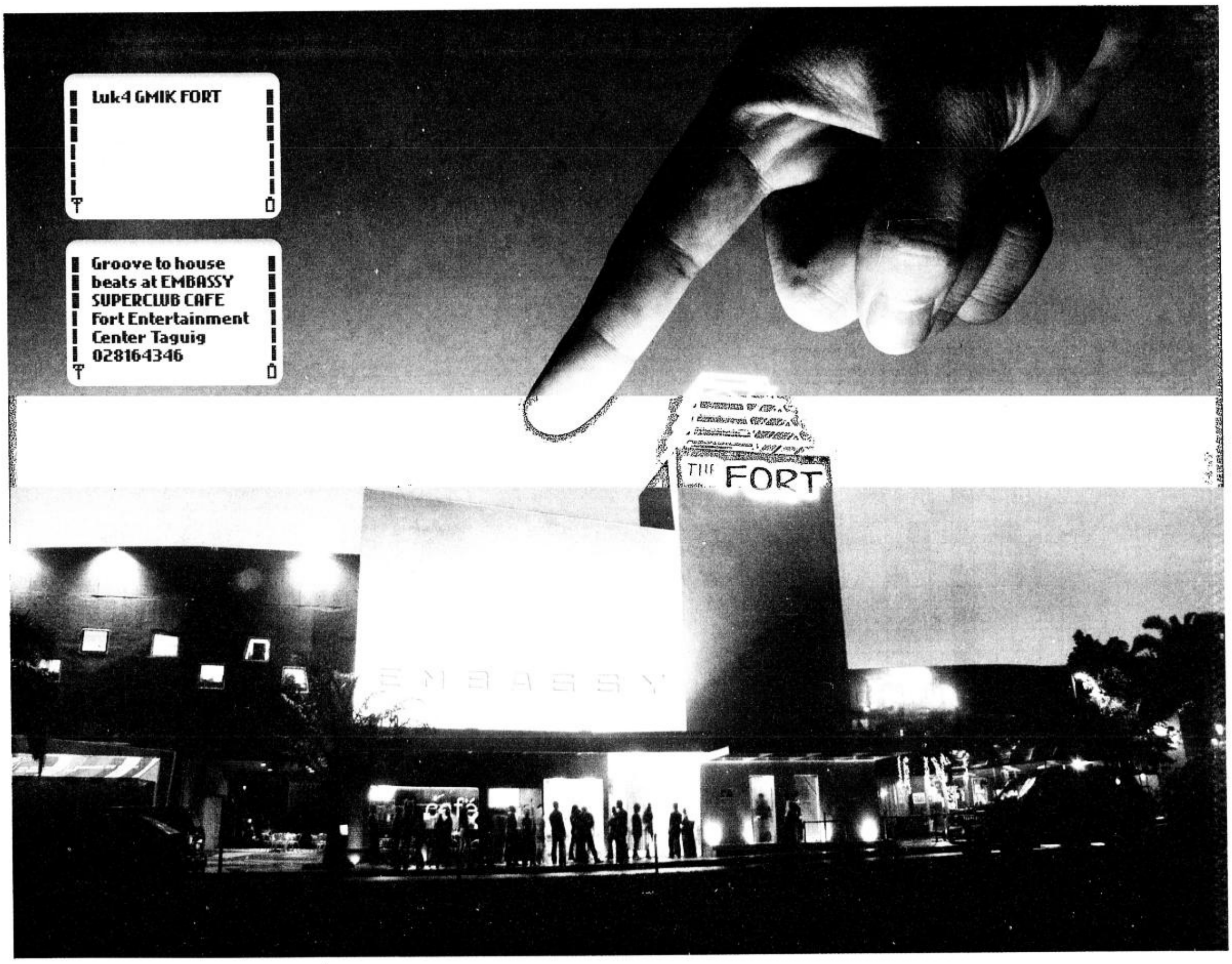

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006

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A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

PUMUNTA SA AYALA AVENUE SA MAKATI SI BERTONG KALABAW PARA MANGARAL NG MABUTING BALITA. PERO WALA MAN LANG NI ISA NA NAKINIG SA KANYA DAHIL SIYA AY ISANG KALABAW

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

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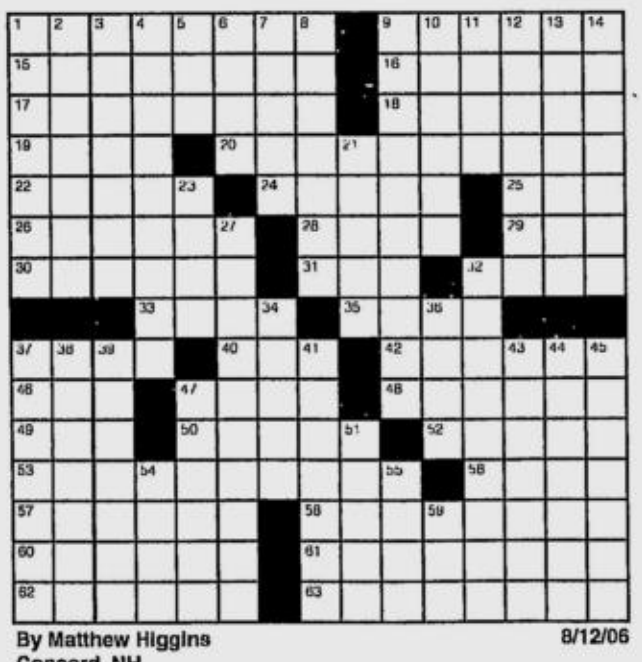

By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

8/12/06

ACROSS
1 Cash dispensers?
9 Cut that out!
15 Shaped like a dunce's cap
16 Stately court dance of yore
17 Final threats
18 Recompense
19 Charges for services
20 Palm bone
22 Got on
24 Even
25 Cool down
26 Banishes
28 Early Hitchcock film
29 __ diem (daily)
30 Wearing enough to be seen
31 Title at the Round Table
32 Swan lady
33 Ticket's returned portion
35 Dull-witted person
37 NBA players
40 Actress Ruby
42 Dracula's conquests
46 Writer Deighton
47 Member of a Myanmar tribe
48 Mammalian epoch
49 St. crosser
50 Looks sullen
52 Dutch pottery
53 Afternoon affairs
56 Santa soller
57 Fielder's blunders
58 __ of habit
60 Churchill follower
61 Disappear like vapor
62 Wedding party members
63 Pensioners

DOWN
1 Shuffled
2 Old weapon
3 Of the intestines
4 Silent
5 Indistinct
6 Mild Dutch cheese
7 African honey badger
8 Roofers using stone
9 Solar system explorer
10 Mexican menu choice
11 Above
12 Primitive mouth organ
13 Persuaded
14 Small square of glass or stone used for mosaics
21 Shun
23 Fender-bender result
27 Stallions kept for breeding
32 City near Birmingham
34 Lollapalooza
36 Rouse to action
37 Flat highland
38 Goes back to a former condition
39 Anywhere planetwide
41 Tempter
43 Rid of parasites
44 Compel
45 Small sofas
47 More meager
51 Start a volleyball point
54 Krakow native
55 Ticket info
59 Long-tailed black cuckoo

Friday's Puzzle Solved

I	D	A	H	O	■	A	L	I	A	S	■	B	I	B
N	O	T	E	R	■	C	I	G	N	A	■	A	N	I
G	R	I	E	G	C	O	M	E	D	Y	■	C	P	R
E	A	C	H	■	H	U	N	T	S	■	T	H	U	D
■	■	■	A	G	A	S	S	I	■	L	U	S	T	S
A	T	H	W	A	R	T	■	T	I	A	N	T	■	■
R	E	A	■	S	T	I	R	■	S	T	A	R	C	H
U	R	N	■	R	E	C	O	L	O	R	■	O	H	O
M	I	D	A	I	R	■	B	A	L	I	■	K	E	N
■	■	E	R	N	S	T	■	S	A	N	T	E	F	E
Z	E	L	I	G	■	E	A	S	T	E	R	■	■	■
A	L	B	A	■	S	A	D	I	E	■	A	G	R	A
P	I	A	■	B	I	Z	E	T	S	I	G	N	A	L
P	A	R	■	S	A	L	L	E	■	D	I	A	N	A
A	S	S	■	A	M	E	E	R	■	A	C	T	I	N

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8/12/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're creative, dramatic and sometimes flamboyant. You appreciate tradition and the way things should be. You're a natural leader who is not afraid to take on gargantuan tasks. You approach whatever you do with serious responsibility. You're very loyal to your loved ones. The year ahead is full of exciting, fresh, new beginnings. **Birthdate of:** George Hamilton, actor; Jane Wyatt, actress; Dominique Swain, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): For the next several weeks, four planets are in the area of your chart that rules romance, love affairs, vacations, the arts, sports and playful times with children. Party on!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your focus is on home, family and real estate for the next several weeks. Do whatever you can to make where you live look more attractive. Invite the gang over!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're busier than a one-armed paperhanger. Short trips, conversations with siblings, shopping and running around doing errands will keep you hopping for the next few weeks!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your focus now swings to money and cash flow. You're giving much thought to how you earn your money and also how you spend it. Trust your moneymaking ideas.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Four planets are in your sign now—the Sun, Mercury, Venus and Saturn. This means the entire world is having a Leo hit. And it means that you are on top of your game!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You really need rest and relaxation now. You're best off working behind the scenes. (It might be hard for you to get credit for what you do in the next few weeks.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): What a popular month ahead for you! Everyone wants to see your face. Accept all invitations. Enjoy friends and groups.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): With so many planets at the top of your chart, people notice you now. That means this is the time to ask for what you want. You're in the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You're so keen to travel, study and learn something new that you're practically bursting at the seams. Do something different. Expand your horizons!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Do whatever you can to improve yourself. Buy self-help books. Take a course. Go on a diet. Cut back on smoking, booze and coffee. This is the month.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your focus is entirely on partners and close friends. Discussions are extremely important. Don't be afraid to show others how much you care.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Because you have such a strong urge to get organized in every way, do it. Clean, paint, sort, categorize and also get rid of what you don't need. De-clutter where you work and where you live.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		5		1	2			
	9					6	4	
	1		4					3
7						2		
8								4
		3						9
5					3		9	
	2	4					6	
			5	8		1		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/12

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	6	1	8	3	7	2	9	5
7	9	2	1	4	5	6	8	3
5	3	8	6	2	9	7	4	1
6	1	7	9	5	8	3	2	4
2	5	9	3	6	4	1	7	8
3	8	4	2	7	1	5	6	9
9	2	6	5	8	3	4	1	7
1	7	3	4	9	6	8	5	2
8	4	5	7	1	2	9	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/11

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Moonrise is a must-see

YOUTH-ORIENTED VOLUNTEER GROUPS EXTENDED THEIR APPRECIATION to filmmakers who, through film, are helping ensure a sustainable future for the country's youth. Rock Ed Philippines, a volunteer and advocacy campaign group for alternative means of education and socio-civic actions hosted the first Moon Rock Award. The award went to "Memories of the Sea," a film which essays the lives of the Badjaw or sea gypsies in Manila who abandoned their seafaring lifestyle due to the long drawn war and sea piracy in Southern Philippines. "One of the dreams of Rock Ed is to supply public schools with more audio visual materials. We also hope they are upbeat and relevant. The Moon Rock award meets this description," says Gang Badoy, founder and executive director of the organization.

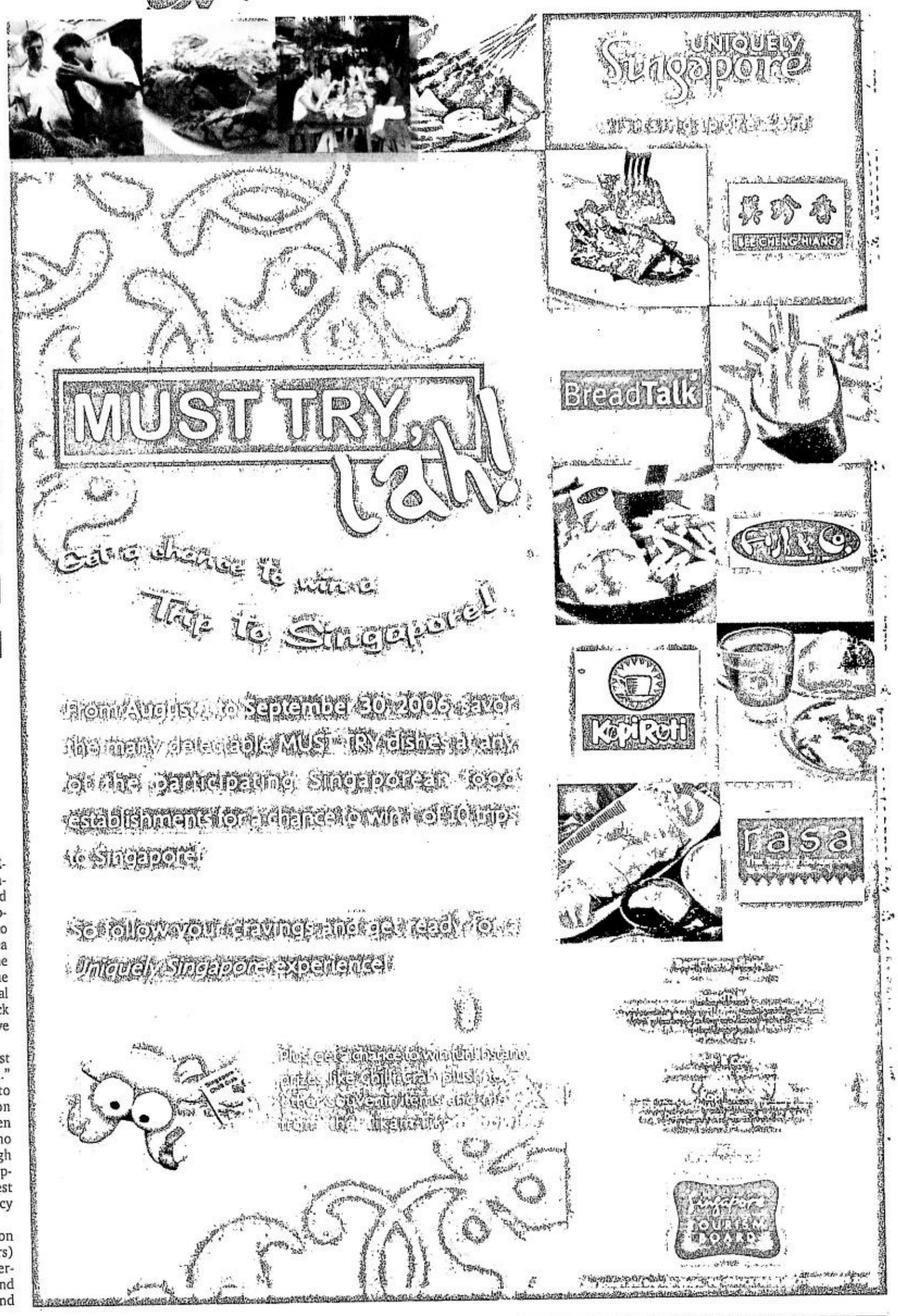
Newly-formed volunteer group, ADD UP!, granted their first Add-Up! Volunteers Choice Award to "The Silent Natives of Fuga." The film unfolds from a journey to the paradise island of Fuga into a nightmare that revealed the rampant poverty and malnutrition caused by unlivable rules imposed on the 2,000 poverty-stricken natives of the island. ADD UP! is a group of young volunteers who have bonded together to do their share in nation building through youth empowerment, educational reform and sustainable development. Founding chair Froilan Grate expressed the group's interest in visiting the island for a medical mission; a book and literacy drive along with environmental education activities.

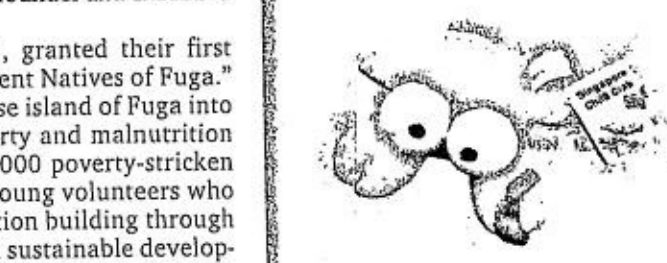
"Wala ng Tiempos Muertos" (No More Dead Season), a film on organic farming and the plight of the *sakadas* (sugarcane farmers) in Negros topped the Grand Charlie Award by Ford Motor's Conservation and Environmental Grants. The Citation on Marine and Aquatic Resources, sponsored by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources was presented to "The Hidden Treasures of Agutayan." Agutayan showcases collective efforts in rehabilitating the Agutayan Marine Sanctuary in Mindanao. Technical Awards on editing and cinematography went to "The Gods of Rice," a film that looks at the impact of change on rice-growing communities that define Asia. "Sa Dulo ng Paraiso" (At the Edge of Paradise), a film produced by a church-based advocacy group in Mindoro which involved the active participation of the indigenous groups concerned, bagged the Best Production Team Award. The Technical Awards were awarded by the festival organizer, the Center for Environmental Awareness and Education.

The Moonrise Film Festival aims to increase awareness and understanding of the Philippines, the state of its environment, its people, and its history. Its main goal is to fast-track and facilitate environmental awareness among Filipinos by means of effective education and communication through visual media. It also serves as a venue for the advancement of environmental and socially-relevant films and for the viewing and dissemination of such work.

The film festival Awards Night was hosted by CEAE volunteer, Miss Earth Philippines 2006 Cathy Untalan and Nino Jacinto, board member of Haribon Foundation. Event support came from 70s Bistro Bar, San Miguel Beer, and Boy Bawang with performances by Cebuano-based ethno-rock band, Kadangyan, and Rock Ed member supporter, Makatha band. The 2nd Moonrise Film Festival is a project of CEAE in partnership with Ford Motor Environmental and Conservation Grants and in coordination with Unilever and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. It is supported by GMA Network, Gateway Mall, Campaigns and Grey's Campaigns Social Response, Rock Ed Philippines, Greenpeace, Pinoyindie.com, The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Light Rail Transit Authority and Jotay Resort.

Watch these award–winning films along with other noteworthy films on Philippine environment and culture on Aug. 19 and 20 at the Gateway Cineplex. For screening schedules and for more information, visit the Moonrise Film Festival website at www.moonrisefilmfest.com or contact CEAE at 721-7360.





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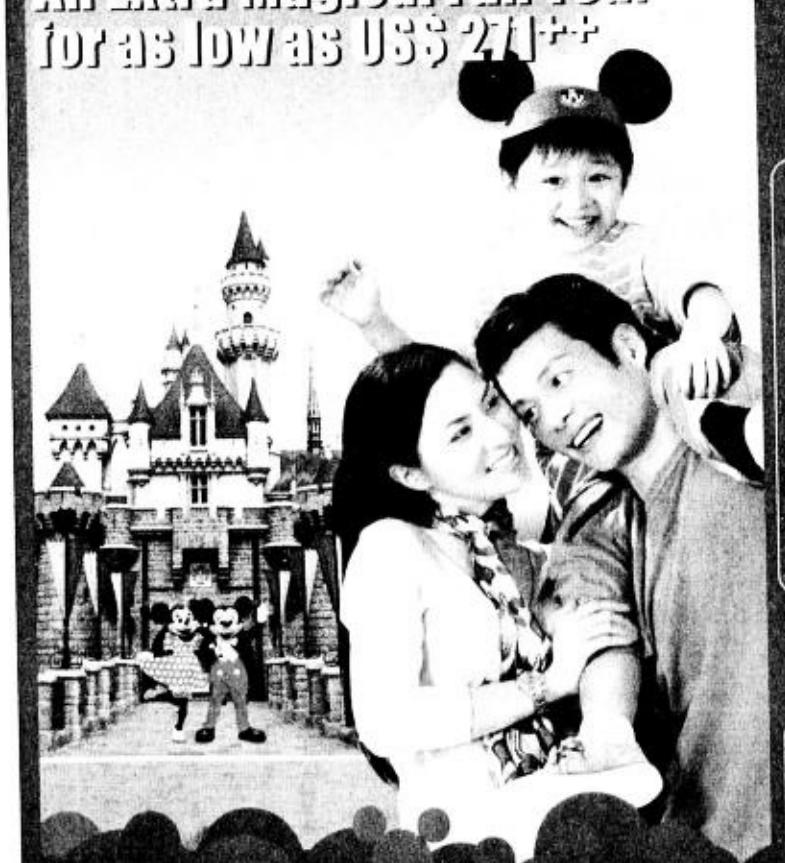

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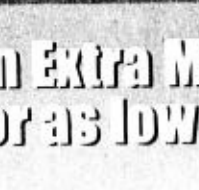

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No more 'jueteng,' 'Kubrador' ...

From page E1

"Kubrador" follows Amelita, a bet collector wonderfully played by Gina Pareño. Amelita collects bets while she works her way through a maze of corruption and poverty. As she does this, she keeps her fatigue and her grief over her dead son to herself. Though the movie centers on her, it's a peek into a world that is around us but ignored.

Amelita is society

"Kubrador" raises questions that need to be tackled in society. It's more than the jueteng issue—it's a variety of problems. There's corruption, poverty, and a whole load of things. But not only does "Kubrador" show us these issues, it presents the way our society deals with them.

Amelita keeps her emotions bottled in as she struggles to make money. She's a symbol of society—life's a struggle for a lot of us, and we're so engrossed with solving our immediate problems, that we lose sight of the big things. However, we see at the end of the film that the big things are the ones that bring us down.

When we see that Amelita is lost, we know why. The grief and fatigue overpower her, her emotions pile up and explode. That is so similar to Filipino society now. We're a society that's so engrossed in solving immediates (economy, infrastructure, and stuff), and we refuse to solve the big problems (inequality and injustice, among other things). We're lost, just as Amelita is. It takes "Kubrador" to make us realize why.

"KUBRADOR" raises questions that need to be tackled in society. It's more than the jueteng issue—it's a variety of problems.

Don't let my analysis discourage you from seeing the film, though. ("Social issues, nooo!") "Kubrador" is entertaining. Behind it is a clever script by Joel Jover—it's not too heavy, it's even funny at times. There are no Sharon Cuneta lines, but that doesn't make it any less memorable. It makes it less laughable—I don't think we'll be hearing any "Kubrador" lines in a video featuring Jojo Alejar.

Gina Pareño isn't Gina Pareño

Joel's script is masterfully used by Gina Pareño. I can use all the positive superlatives there are in this world to describe Gina Pareño's acting in this movie, and I promise you won't be let down. Something has to be said about how she stepped into a character's psyche. Very few actors are able to do that.

In the past few years, Oscar winners have been those who have played characters based on real people. There's Jaime Foxx's "Ray," and Philip Seymore Hoffman's "Capote." The explanation for this is that the actors "became" Ray Charles and Truman Capote. But these actors had it easy. They had actual subjects to study, and if they failed to connect to the audience, they had the "but that's really how (blank) was!" excuse.

Imagine having to think up a character, and not having one subject to base your performance upon. Imagine having to make this character "real" despite it being a product of your imagination. Imagine having to be able to connect with an audience, to make them feel for a character they've never seen before, let alone really care about. It's impossible, but that's what Gina does.

Most actors ask, "Do I have to cry in this scene? At what line?" You can tell, just watching the film, that Gina Pareño asks, "Would Amelita cry in this scene? What would Amelita do if so and so happens?" She's so good at it, you don't even think she's acting. When the film ends, you feel like you've left a person you've spent the last three days with.

Hidden Mickeys

Just as Gina disappears into Amelita, Jeffrey Jetturian disappears into the film. There are very few directors who are willing to disappear into their films. I'll tell you, but just between us, that a lot of us new directors like saying "Hey, look at me! Look what I can do!" I mean, there are movies that you watch and go, "Ah, the director did this and that," then there are movies that you watch and get so involved in.

"Kubrador" is the kind of movie you watch and get lost in. That is what makes it brilliant. You become unaware that you're watching a film—you feel like you're watching the life of Amelita. And in the end, that is what filmmakers should do. It's easy to call attention to one's self, it's effing hard to let go of your ego and realize it's not all about you.

The technicals are down-pat, too. The movie was shot with high definition digital cameras. (It was later "blown up" to film format.) It was shot kinda like a documentary-not just in terms of the way the camera was held. There were a lot of long takes—that means using just one take for a few minutes—that involved Gina Pareño moving through the community, talking to a bunch of people, running into a bunch of objects and animals and stuff. (Imagine all the effort it took to get everything in sync in one take! Go, Jeffrey Jetturian!)

The film has won numerous awards in Berlin and, most recently, in India. It has been given international critics prizes. Gina Pareño has been awarded best actress, and the film has been called one of the the best in Asian cinema.

Now, I could go on with, "If you love your country, support its arts and yadayadayada!" Or I could say, "We complain about the quality of Filipino movies, here is a movie that goes against the grain, blahblahblah." But I won't say that. Filipino films should no longer be a charity for audiences. And I know all that talk doesn't work anyway; we bask in apathy.

So I'll say, "If you want to be entertained, and you don't want to be left out of next week's discussions, watch 'Kubrador.'" I'm not lying. You'll miss out if you don't see it.

"Kubrador" opens on Aug. 16 at the following malls: SM Megamall, SM Mall of Asia, Gateway, Glorietta 4, Market! Market, Robinson's Manila, Ffestival Mall, Alabang Town Center. Its English title is "The Bet Collector."

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SATURDAY Special

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** • *Assistant Editor* **Rito P. Asilo**

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

ESCUDERO AND DEFENSOR. Too dynamic to be constrained by excessively rigorous rules.

CARICATURE: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Defensor, Escudero boxed in by new TV show's debate format

By Nestor U. Torre

ANC HAS SCORED A CASTing coup by getting presidential chief of staff Mike Defensor and house minority head Chiz Escudero to agree to topbill the weekly public affairs show, "Square Off."

This "interface" casting of young comers from the opposite sides of the political spectrum offers the compelling prospects of conflict, authoritative analysis, clarifying contrast, and possible resolution of some heretofore contentious issues.

Objectives

To see if the new show could manage to achieve any or all of these objectives, we caught the first telecast on ANC at 8 p.m. last Tuesday.

When the show began, we were surprised when moderator Twink Macaraeg announced that "Square Off" would hew to a debate format. She then proceeded to tick off the rules that would govern Mike and Chiz's conduct and performance on the show.

This worried us, because the two emerging political stars are too dynamic to be constrained by such a rigorously officious format.

Then, we recalled the show's opening title sequence and its square-based images and design—advertently or inadvertently, they too indicated that Mike and Chiz were being "boxed in" by their new show's stilted and potentially stultifying debate format.

Still, we decided to give the show a chance and watched the one-hour program with the attention and interest it deserved.

It was revealed that the debate would focus on the proposition that the Arroyo administration was now in the strongest position to offer reconciliation to the opposition.

The proposition was a timely basis for discussion, but it bothered us, because it seemed to inadvertently favor Defensor, since it could inhibit Escudero from being all-out critical, for fear of the opposition's sounding divisive and coming across as a proponent of disunity.

Challenges

This was a no-no, particularly at this time when the country has to unite behind urgent efforts to rescue Filipino OCWs in Lebanon, among other galvanizing challenges.

True enough, the Lebanon crisis was listed as one of the debate's sub-topics, as well as local officials getting a larger share of the internal revenue allotment, and electoral reforms, including the early computerization of the polls.

In all these instances, Escudero was limited to coming up with relatively toned-down criticism of government moves, all the while scrupulously proclaiming the opposition's pro-people stance.

He also had to repeatedly remind everyone that the government shouldn't take criticism as potentially subversive, but as an essential part of the democratic process.

On point of actual performance, both Mike and Chiz came across as personable, articulate, well-informed and noninflammatory.

Who did better? We felt that Chiz came up with more telling and detailed arguments, but his "hooded" gaze subliminally limited his genuine accessibility to viewers. Mike, on the other hand, looked more forthcoming.

This may seem to be a minor detail, but television is all about impressions and personal connection, so Escudero may want to reassess this aspect of his on-camera persona, to enhance his effectivity with viewers in future telecasts.

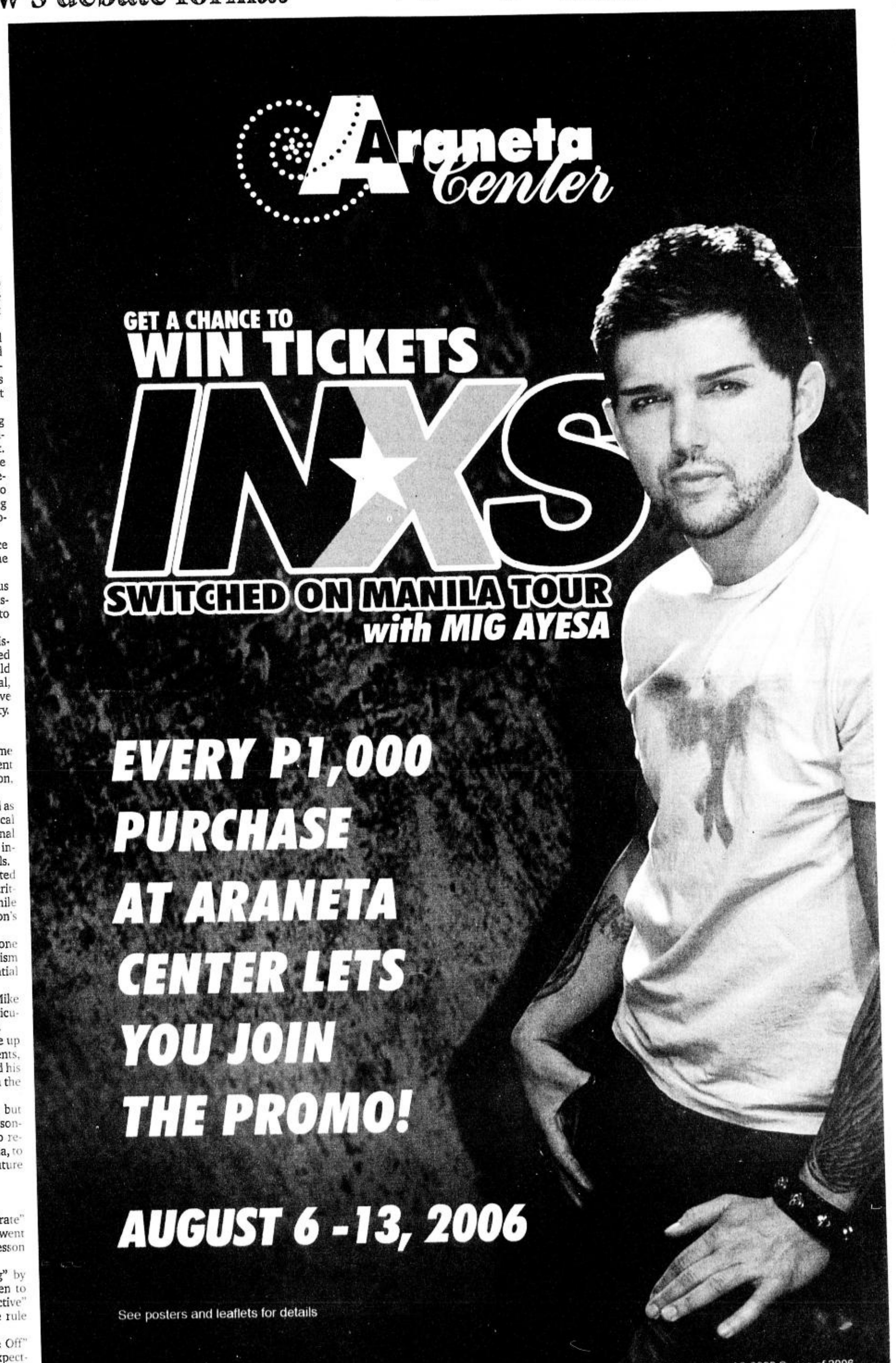
Lesson

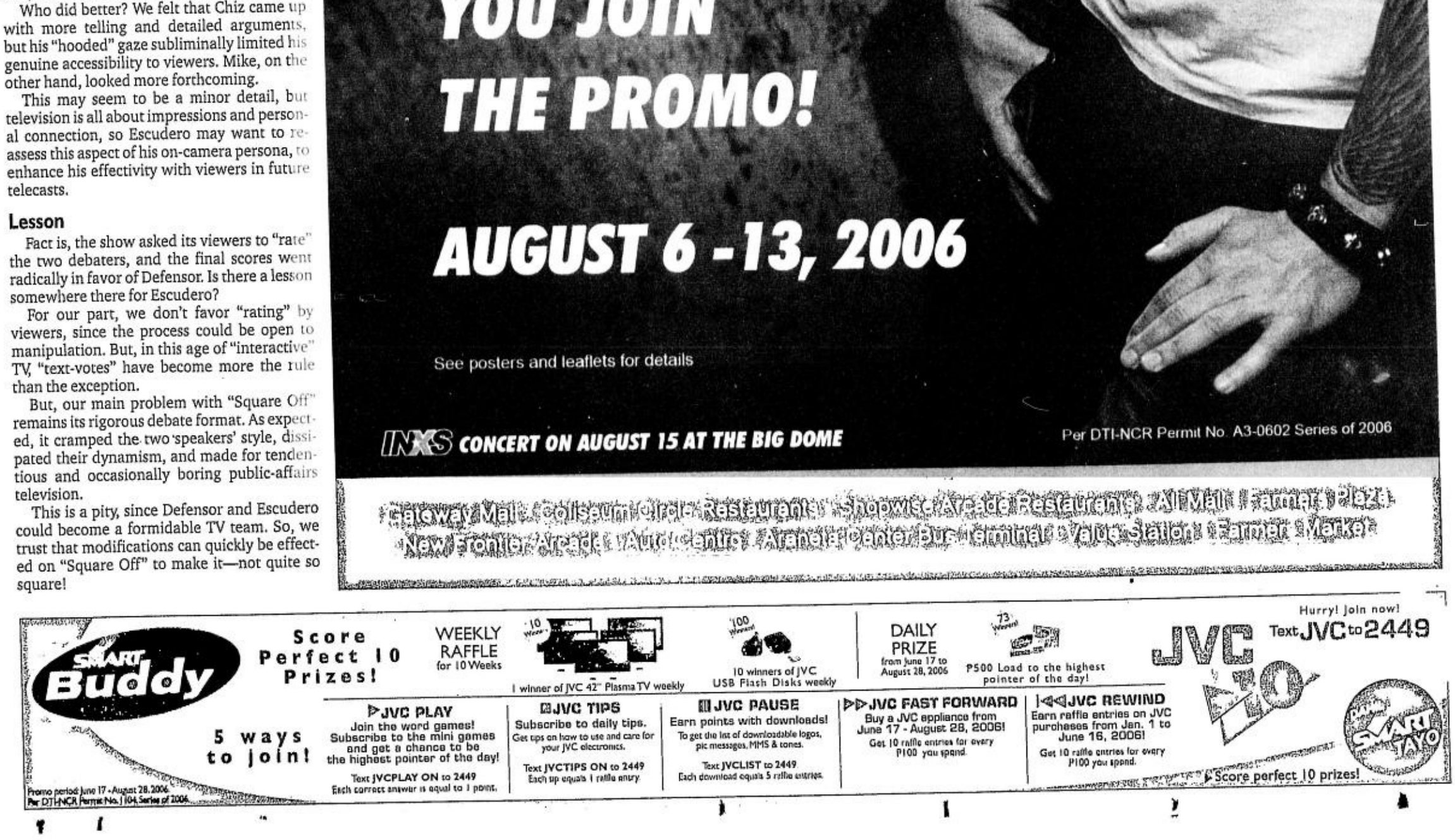
Fact is, the show asked its viewers to "rate" the two debaters, and the final scores went radically in favor of Defensor. Is there a lesson somewhere there for Escudero?

For our part, we don't favor "rating" by viewers, since the process could be open to manipulation. But, in this age of "interactive" TV, "text-votes" have become more the rule than the exception.

But, our main problem with "Square Off" remains its rigorous debate format. As expected, it cramped the two speakers' style, dissipated their dynamism, and made for tendentious and occasionally boring public-affairs television.

This is a pity, since Defensor and Escudero could become a formidable TV team. So, we trust that modifications can quickly be effected on "Square Off" to make it—not quite so square!





Ogie Alcasid is the soul of generosity

By Bibsy M. Carballo

THE PHILIPPINE MUSIC SCENE IS NOT wanting in exemplary male singers. Gary V never fails to overwhelm with his vocal and terpsichorean skills, despite a debilitating ailment. Martin Nievera, his gift of gab nothwithstanding is still the balladeer to contend with.

We never had the opportunity to watch Ogie Alcasid live on a concert stage, so it was with some trepidation that we braved the rains to watch Ogie's Aliw Theater gig, "Komikonsyerto."

Applause

The audience couldn't wait for Ogie to get on stage. The applause reached a deafening crescendo when Ogie finally came out to sing "Bonga Ka 'Day."

The concert went on for more than two hours, with Alcasid exhibiting his versatility in various genres and popular songs: "Nandito Ako," which Aaron Paul del Rosario wrote for him; Barry Manilow ballads; Motown classics like "Ma Cherie Amour" and "Ain't No Mountain High"; a poignant "Bakit Ikaw" and "Ikaw Sana" medley; "Kastilyong Buhangin"; "Never Ever Say Goodbye"; the friendship medley ("Kailangan Kita" and "Kailangan Ko Ikaw"), which he dedicated to buddies, Piolo Pascual, Gary V and Regine Velasquez, and the "Sumayaw Sumunod" finale.

By the end of the show, the people who packed the venue were grinning from ear to ear. We counted around 35 songs, excluding Ogie's duets with Francine Prieto and Rufa Mae Quinto.

Tribute

There were also two songs from Manny Pacquiao, skits which cleverly paid tribute to concert producer Lhuillier Phil. (with Ogie's colleagues from "Bubble Gang"), and an MTV-Live spoof from Tsura Cuneta (*aka* Michael V).

On hindsight, we think that the secret to Ogie's success can be summed up in one word: Generosity. As person and performer, Alcasid is generous with his time (the next day, he was smiling on SOP, had a mall show right after, and gamely attended charitable functions) and talent (he writes songs for others). That's more than we can say of other "stars" who aren't as successful.

ALCASID. Versatility personified.

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Pleasant surprises in hit-heavy compilation

By Noelani Torre

THE ACOUSTIC LOVE SONG COLLECTION, "You're Beautiful," takes its name from the album-opener of the same title by singer-songwriter James Blunt. Culled from his much-admired debut, "Back to Bedlam," this tender, longing ballad was dubbed the "Your Song" of today by Elton John, and spent several weeks at the top of the charts.

Radio-friendly

Like the abovementioned tune, most of the other songs in the 17-track CD are radio-friendly hits: Ryan Cabrera's "True," Jewel's "You Were Meant for Me," Rob Thomas' "Lonely No More," and Alanis Morissette's "Hand in My Pocket." (Note that the last isn't *exactly* a love song.)

Despite the preponderance of Top 40 selections, the playlist is varied enough to attract a wide audience.

Nitpickers will note, however, that the album's acoustic claim can't be completely substantiated by its content.

THOMAS. Sings "Lonely No More" in pop collection.

The term acoustic, as it is used in the music industry, means "of, relating to, or being a musical instrument whose sound is not electronically modified." Strictly speaking then, practically half of the songs in this compilation wouldn't qualify as such. Still, they do sound acoustic-ish, with the glaring exception of Zero 7's "Destiny," a chill-out acid jazz track that stands out more for its soulfulness than for its being out of place.

Other stand-out tracks would be Aqualung's "Brighter Than Sunshine," Daniel Powter's "Bad Day," David Gray's "The One I Love," Damien Rice's "Cannonball," and Ryan Adams' cover of the Oasis original, "Wonderwall."

"Brighter Than Sunshine" will probably be familiar to most. Taken from Aqualung's third album, "Strange and Beautiful," the piano-driven song is as sunny as its title implies.

Laidback

Another piano-driven piece is Daniel Powter's "Bad Day," from his self-titled '05 debut. The skies are grey, not blue in this number, but the pace remains laidback and the chorus catchy.

As for the three other memorable tracks in this collection, it's the guitar that's the main instrument. "The One I Love," by the not so famous but definitely worthy of recognition David Gray, is a quiet but powerful song.

Finally, there's the still recognizable but distinctively altered "Wonderwall," rendered by Adams.

It's probably the more familiar numbers in this hit-heavy selection that will attract people to "You're Beautiful," but they may just find themselves pleasantly surprised by some of the other tracks.

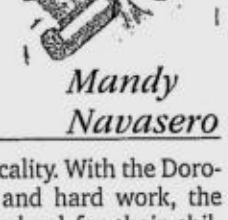
Local heroes

HEROISM RUNS THROUGH THE VEINS OF the Doroteo family in Barangay San Jose, Antipolo.

Headed by *Tatay* Erning, each member of this family contributes to the improvement of their community.

One notable contribution is the establishment of a formal school in the Dumagat-populated community. The Doroteos believe that "education will set our people from poverty."

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

So, *Tatay* Erning initiated efforts to put up a school in the remote locality. With the Doroteo family's dedication and hard work, the Dumagats now have a school for their children.

Mission

Erning's wife, *Nanay* Azon, plays an important part in this mission: She provides special assistance to neighbors in need of medical care. The Bayanihan spirit works well for this family. The couple has inspired other Dumagats to participate in community-building efforts.

It is this selfless spirit that recently won for the Doroteo family the Gawad Geny Lopez Jr. Bayaning Pilipino Award (Family category), recently.

* * *

The Mandy Navasero Batanes and Coron Photo Safari, and this year's participants to our summer photo workshop will mount an exhibit that will feature Batanes, Busuanga, Butuan, Bacolod, Bulusan and Laguna, jointly with our major sponsor, the Rockwell Power Plant Mall, from Aug. 24 to 27.

Batanes photos will be auctioned off on Aug. 26 at 4 p.m. Proceeds will be used for the restoration of Ivatan stone houses, a project headed by former DepEd secretary, Florencio "Butch" Abad.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767.

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Stellar affairs to remember

By Behn Cervantes

HOLLYWOOD ISN'T THE center of glittery fun and games for nothing. Beautiful, ambitious blondes, redheads and brunettes are always ready to climb up the show biz ladder, even if casting couches are regular stops along the celestial way.

Tinseltown also has handsome men who epitomize male virility. Put them together and what you have got? A lot of steamy action!

Decades ago, starlets and esteemed thespians alike indulged in romantic frolic. But, no matter how scandalous their behavior was in the bedroom, the Hollywood press kept the gory details to itself. (What some of Hollywood's biggest stars did would have humbled today's scandal-prone actors—Madonna included.)

Out of the closet

These days, when you read about the reported sexual inclinations of Marlene Dietrich, Joan Crawford and Greta Garbo, you'd wonder why there was so much fuss and bother when Ellen Degeneres and Rosie O'Donnell finally came out of the closet.

Of course, there were also whispers that some of Hollywood's most admired he-men preferred each other to their much-publicized leading ladies. But, that's old news. Whatever happened to the much-vaunted moral values of the Victorian era?

Wholesome

In those days, according to the Hays Office, everybody had to be prim and proper. But, while things remained wholesome onscreen, things were different in Sunset Boulevard's boudoirs!

After working hours, the bigger-than-life stars descended upon the earth and did what flawed mortals do. Only, those celebrities did it in secret.

Much later, for example, the world was taken aback when Gregory Peck admitted to carrying on an affair with Ingrid Bergman when they were shooting "Intermezzo," and described the dalliance as merely "youthful adventure."

In effect, Bergman's wholesome image was tainted because everybody knew she was "happily married" to Dr. Peter Lindstrom. Then, she flew off to another romantic tryst, which produced a child out of wedlock!

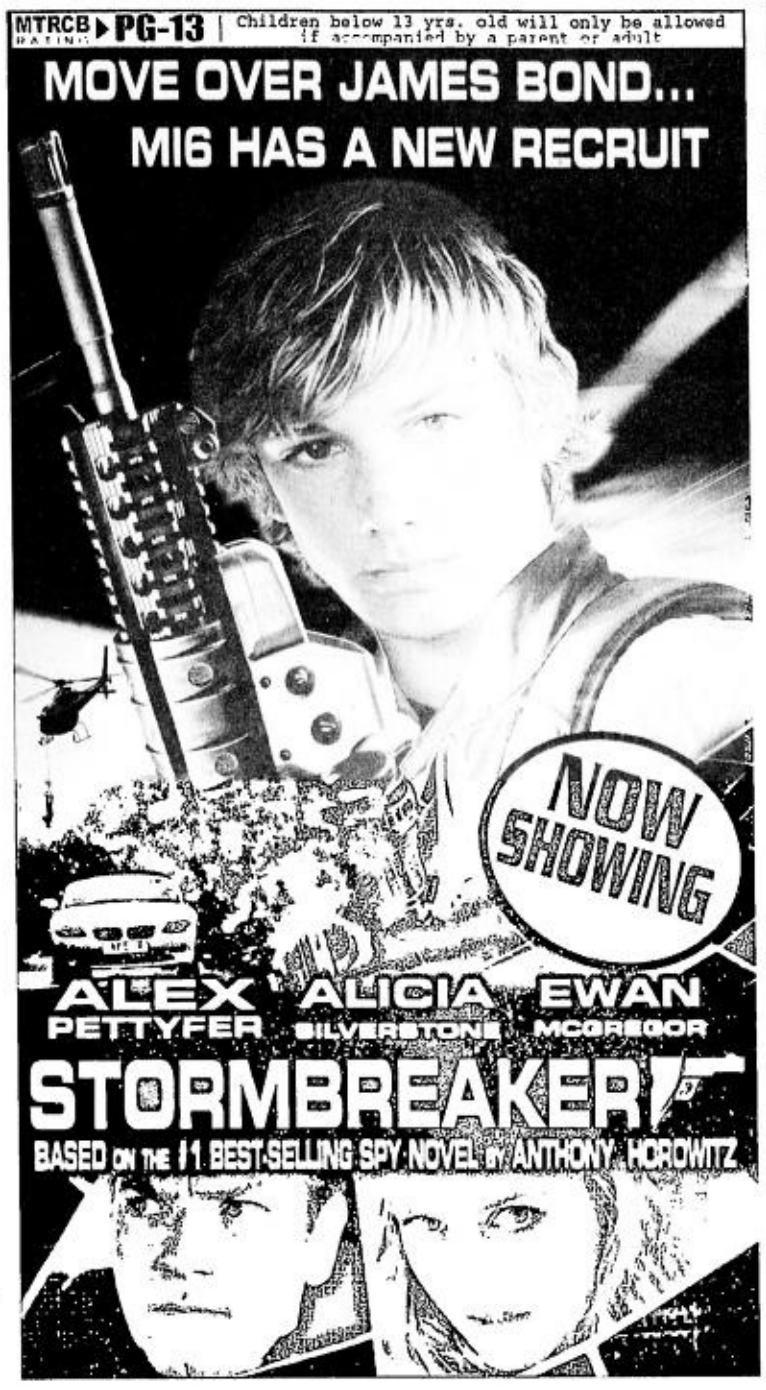
Scandalous

It was so scandalous that the Vatican condemned her, while the US Congress wanted her barred from entering the US for good.

Years later, the world would learn that Bergman had also had affairs with other leading men—including Gary Cooper.

Finally: Like Bergman, Loretta Young thrived on a dignified image, so no one questioned her love for her "adopted" daughter, who turned out to be her daughter with—Clark Gable!

PECK. Belatedly confessed to an affair with Ingrid Bergman.



Financial success through Sara Lee Direct Selling

From Left: Aurora de Leon, Cesar Verastigue and Mercy Aguilar have made the biggest triumphs of their lives through Sara Lee Direct Selling.

Their lives had been a series of triumphs and failures. Aurora de Leon wanted a career that enabled her to help other people. Cesar Verastigue longed for the fulfillment he couldn't find in his job as a comics writer. And Mercy Aguilar did not get to finish her studies.

The biggest triumph of their careers occurred when Aurora, Cesar and Mercy decided to become dealers for Sara Lee Direct Selling. With their impressive performances, they recently made it big by being among Sara Lee's top independent business managers (IBMs) for 2006.

In fact, Aurora is now part of Sara Lee Direct Selling history by becoming its first Hall of Fame awardee. "With my earnings and incentives, I now have a car and have traveled extensively. I am also helping improve the lives of my dealers," reveals Aurora who is one of the top sellers from the Las Pinas branch.

Cesar, who is one the top sellers of the Batangas branch, was able to build his dream houses and invest on real estate. He has also put up an orphanage which he says was a dream-come-true. "It's now home to 35 young and old orphans, thanks to my career with Sara Lee Direct Selling!"

Mercy is also grateful to Sara Lee Direct Selling for making her dreams come true. The Marikina branch top seller says her direct selling career has brought her to different countries, including Canada which she considers the most unforgettable. "My husband and I were awed by the grandeur of Niagara Falls," she remarks. A college undergraduate, she is proud to say that she now earns more than the average company executive.

Besides generous rewards and incentives, these three successful direct sellers agree that Sara Lee Direct Selling's world-class products have been instrumental in their success. "Customers keep coming back for our products, and this has made us very successful," they chorus.

Success and failures are indeed part of life. In the case of these three successful people, the stroke of luck came when they shifted careers to become dealers for Sara Lee Direct Selling. Now living fuller lives, Aurora, Cesar and Mercy are indeed big winners in the game of life.

Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is the authorized distributor of prestigious brands that include Playtex, Hanes, Champion, Wonderbra, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS, Versus, Nutrimetics and Zwitsal. Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is also known as Fuller Cosmetics in Latin America and Nutrimetics in many parts of the world. If you have questions, need additional information or wish to become a dealer, call 859-3000, or send an email to customer_relation@saraleedirectselling.ph. You can also send inquiries through fax number 867-2279. You may also get in touch through text at 0921-9643367 or 0915-9823471

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	3 FIERCE PEOPLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE BREAK-UP 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SUKOB 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS				
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 CLICK		2 STORMBREAKER				
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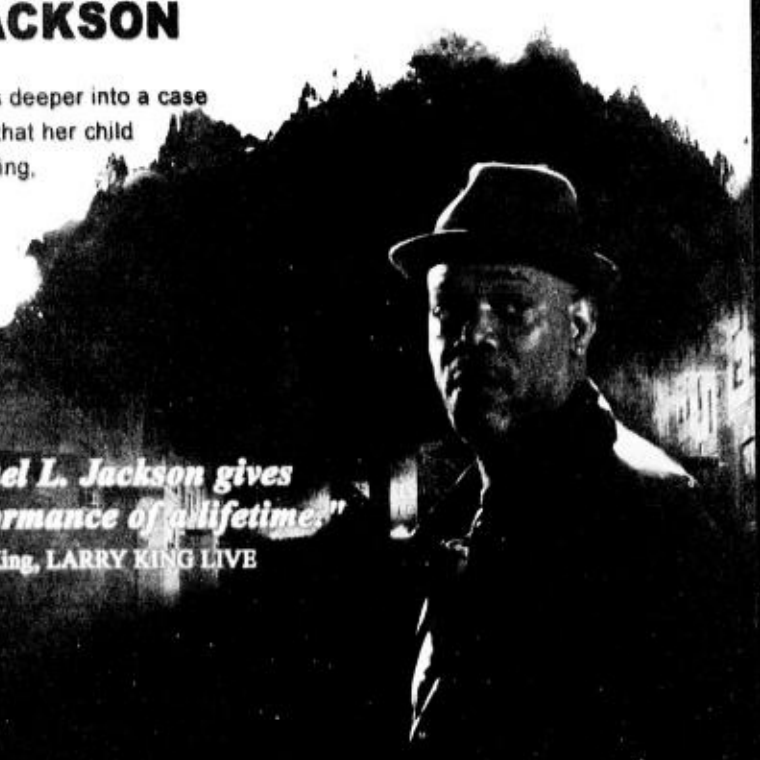
SAMUEL L. JACKSON

A veteran police detective looks deeper into a case of a woman's suspicious claim that her child was abducted during a car-jacking, and discovers that the woman might not be telling the truth...



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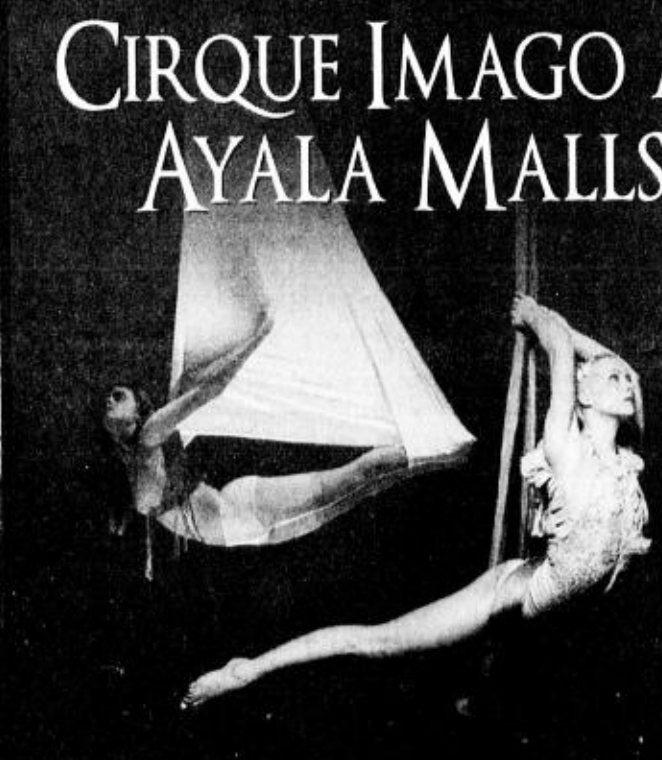

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SANDLER, WALKEN AND BECKINSALE (RIGHT). Topbill sci-fi comedy.

LIFE ON AUTO-PILOT

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU'VE SEEN THE TRAILER OF "CLICK," then you'll more or less know how the story goes: A stressed-out family man gets a universal remote to make his life easier, only to find out that the remote can control not just gadgets, but everything in his own personal universe—from the volume of his dog's barking to the length of his wife's tirade (he fast-forwards through it).

Premise

That's only the premise, however, which takes up around half of the movie's time. Still, you'll also know how the rest of the story unfolds, even if you haven't seen the trailer.

This is La-la land we're talking about, where things not broken are not fixed and are put to good use—over and over again. In the case of "Click," that would be a plotline taken from the all-time holiday favorite, "It's a Wonderful Life," and life-choice dilemmas imported from "Bruce Almighty."

Since this is an Adam Sandler comedy, you can expect the same old gags involving bodily functions, large mammary glands, and interactions between dogs and stuffed animals.

Unlike earlier Adam Sandler comedies, however, "Click" has the famed "man-child slob" attempting to be more adult.

This time around, his character, Michael Newman, has a successful job as an architect who's dealing with the usual problems that successful, on-the-move people grapple with in the real world: A demanding boss, thwarted ambition, etc.

Eccentric

When Newman ventures into the Beyond and Way Beyond sections of specialty store, Bed, Bath & Beyond, he meets the eccentric inventor, Morty (Christopher Walken), who offers him the universal remote.

Finally, it seems as though life is finally giving him a break. He can fast-forward through tedious showers, arguments with his wife (Kate Beckinsale), and stressful office work.

It's an enticing idea, but we all know that he will come to grief in the end. Corny as it may be, the message here—that you should cherish your family and really live life, not just get through it—is one that audiences will no doubt lap up.

Funny parts

"Click," in fact, isn't really a comedy. Yes, it has funny parts, but equal in number to the laughs are the tear-jerker moments.

It all gets too schmaltzy sometimes, but the teary moments are balanced out by a thread of darkness that runs through the movie.

Newman, when he's fast-forwarding, doesn't really go away. His mind goes, but his body stays, functioning on auto-pilot.

Sadly, he is, in fact, just like most workaholics in the real world, who don't even have the excuse of having a magical remote control to make decisions for them.

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2 CLICK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 ANT BULLY
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 STORMBREAKER
PREMIERE CINEMA
SUKOB
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2 SUKOB
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 ANT BULLY
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 THE BREAK-UP
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 UMAARAW, UMUULAN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STORMBREAKER
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MIAMI VICE
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 LADY IN THE WATER
9 ANT BULLY
10 ANT BULLY
11 THE BREAK-UP
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
2 LADY IN THE WATER
THE BREAK-UP
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 CLICK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MIAMI VICE
8 ANT BULLY
9 SUKOB
10 WHITE LADY
11 JUST MY LUCK
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP
7 JUST MY LUCK
8 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
9 ANT BULLY
10 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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3 MIAMI VICE
4 ANT BULLY
5 SUKOB
6 SUKOB

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1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 FIERCE PEOPLE
5 SUKOB
6 MIAMI VICE
7 STORMBREAKER
8 CLICK
9 FIERCE PEOPLE
10 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
11 ANT BULLY
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

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3 MIAMI VICE
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5 ANT BULLY
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3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
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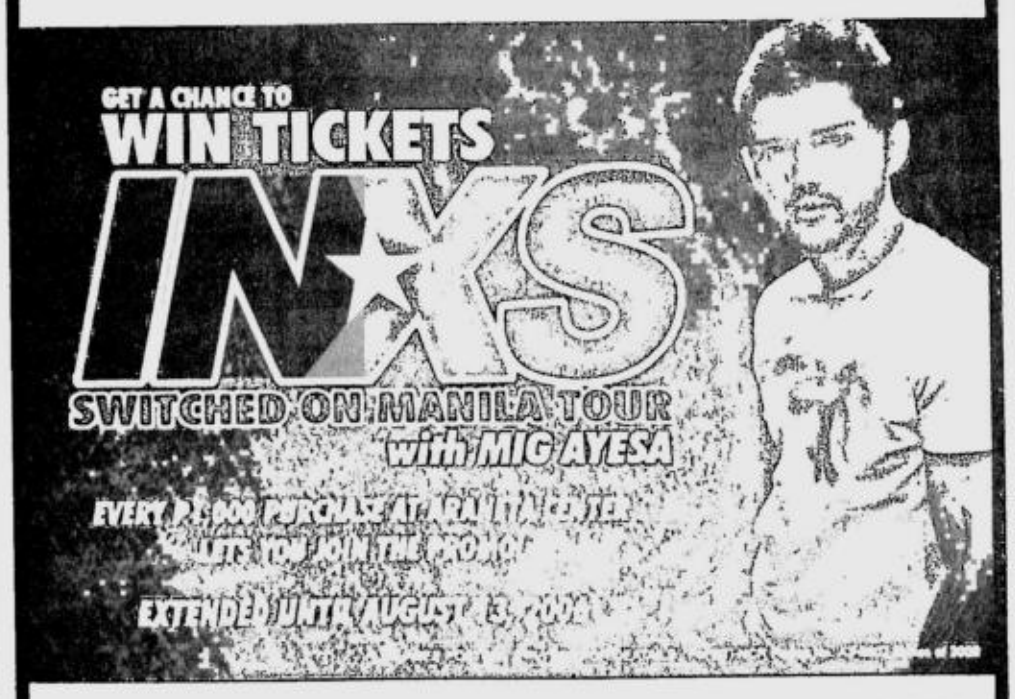

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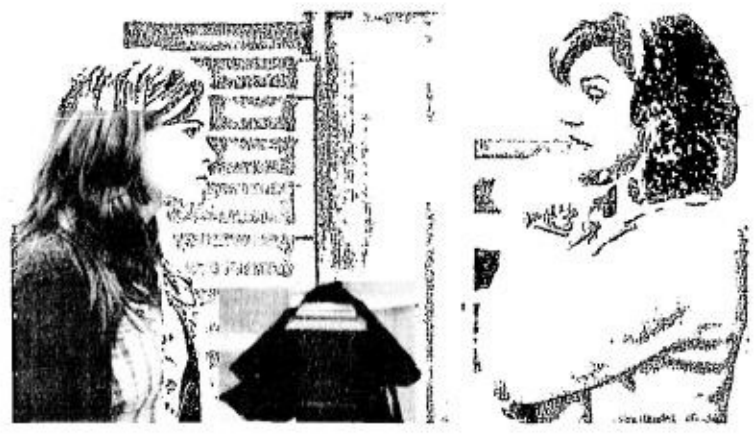
'Mom at 16' on the Hallmark Channel



PANBAKER AND RUEHL. Play daughter and mother in teenage-pregnancy drama.

"MOM AT SIXTEEN," A THOUGHT-provoking drama for every teen and parent who's had to deal with unexpected pregnancy, premieres on the Hallmark Channel at 9 p.m. on Aug. 20 (encore telecast at 2 p.m. on Aug. 21).

In the film, top student Jacey (Danielle Panbaker) gets pregnant, but keeps her giving birth a secret. She agrees to have her baby adopted by her mother (Mercedes Ruehl), and they move to another town to start a new life.

MONTAGE

But, having to live a lie makes Jacey emotionally turbulent. With the help of a guidance counselor, she finally makes a decision that changes everyone's fate.

Nick shows on ABC-5

Nickelodeon now has a programming block on ABC-5—from 6 to 9 a.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m., Mondays-Fridays.

Preschoolers can now solve puzzles in "Blue's Clues," explore the world with "Dora, The Explorer," dive into the underwater wonder world in "SpongeBob Squarepants," step into the "Chalkzone" for artistic self-expression, have fun with "Hey Arnold!," and cheer along with the furry friends of "CatDog." What fun!

"DORA, THE EXPLORER." Also seen on ABC-5.

Sun Power in Nueva Ecija

Sun Cellular zoomed into Nueva Ecija recently, showcasing its increased network capacity. Now, more people in the province can enjoy Sun's best-value services.

Young heartthrobs Aiza Marquez and Marco Alcaraz and other celebrity guests paraded in a motorcade from San Jose, through Muñoz, all the way to Cabanatuan, where surprises and activities awaited both stars and fans.

Aiza, Marco and the Sugarfree band then performed the night away, even as fans joined exciting games and won cool prizes, like free five-minute IDD calls to any of Sun's Top 10 IDD destinations.

MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards

On Monday, Aug. 14, the MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards 2006 unreels at the Pagcor Grand Theater in Casino Filipino (Naia). The awards honor the best and brightest among this year's musicians and music-video makers. Pop-rock legend, INXS, leads the cast of presenters with its new vocalist, JD Fortune.

New categories include favorite rock/hip-hop or R&B/pop video, and best cinematography and editing. Guest performers include Parokya ni Edgar, Sandwich, Kamikazee, Jay-R, Urbandub, Dicta License and Manny Pacquiao. KC Montero hosts.

Bimbo in concert series

On Aug. 16, 22 and 30, the concert for a cause, "Cerrudo: Classico... Classic Ko," showcases Bimbo Cerrudo at the Teatrino in Greenhills. Each concert serves as a fundraiser to benefit an institution or foundation.

CERRUDO. Sings for a cause.

Bimbo will perform standards, classical-pop crossover tunes, songs from the cinema and light opera, and will be accompanied by a 14-piece ensemble from the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, Rodel Colmenar conducting.

Call 0920 700-6115 for Aug. 16, 0906 442-5726 for Aug. 22 and 0918 925-0384 for Aug. 30.

'V for Vendetta'

The exciting Natalie Portman-Hugo Weaving starrer, "V for Vendetta," is now on DVDs and videos. In the film, a young woman in rescued by a charismatic masked man. As he ignites a revolution, the young woman discovers the truth about herself, and emerges as his unlikely ally.

Masterbeat in Manila

Raise the rainbow flag with CircuitAsia in Manila Pride, featuring LA-based Masterbeat on Aug. 19 at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard cor. Gil Puyat ave., Manila.

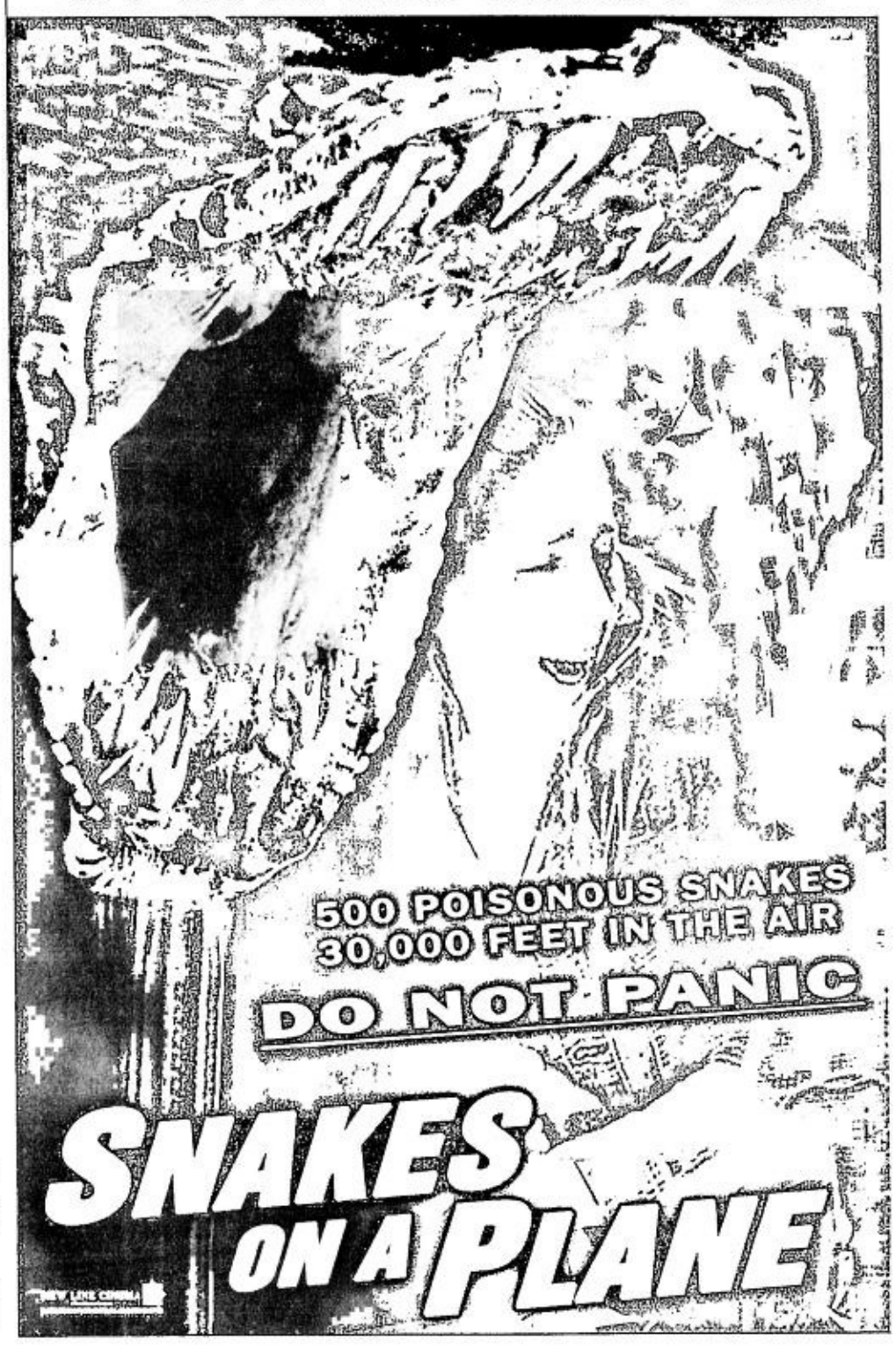
Featuring house music that will surely electrify partyphiles and performers who will titillate your inner pink, Manila Pride, with the special participation of Frenchie Dy and top DJs, Manolet Dario, Toy Armada and Tony Pavia, will be a vibrant celebration of diversity, equality, and unity. Call 889-7877.

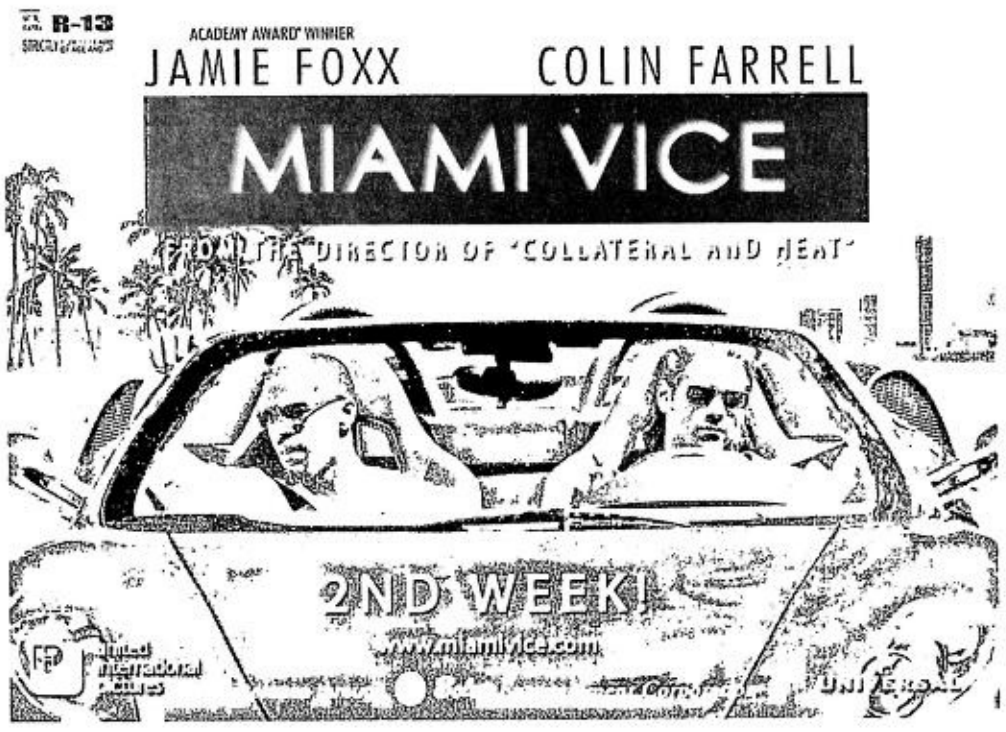
Movies on TV

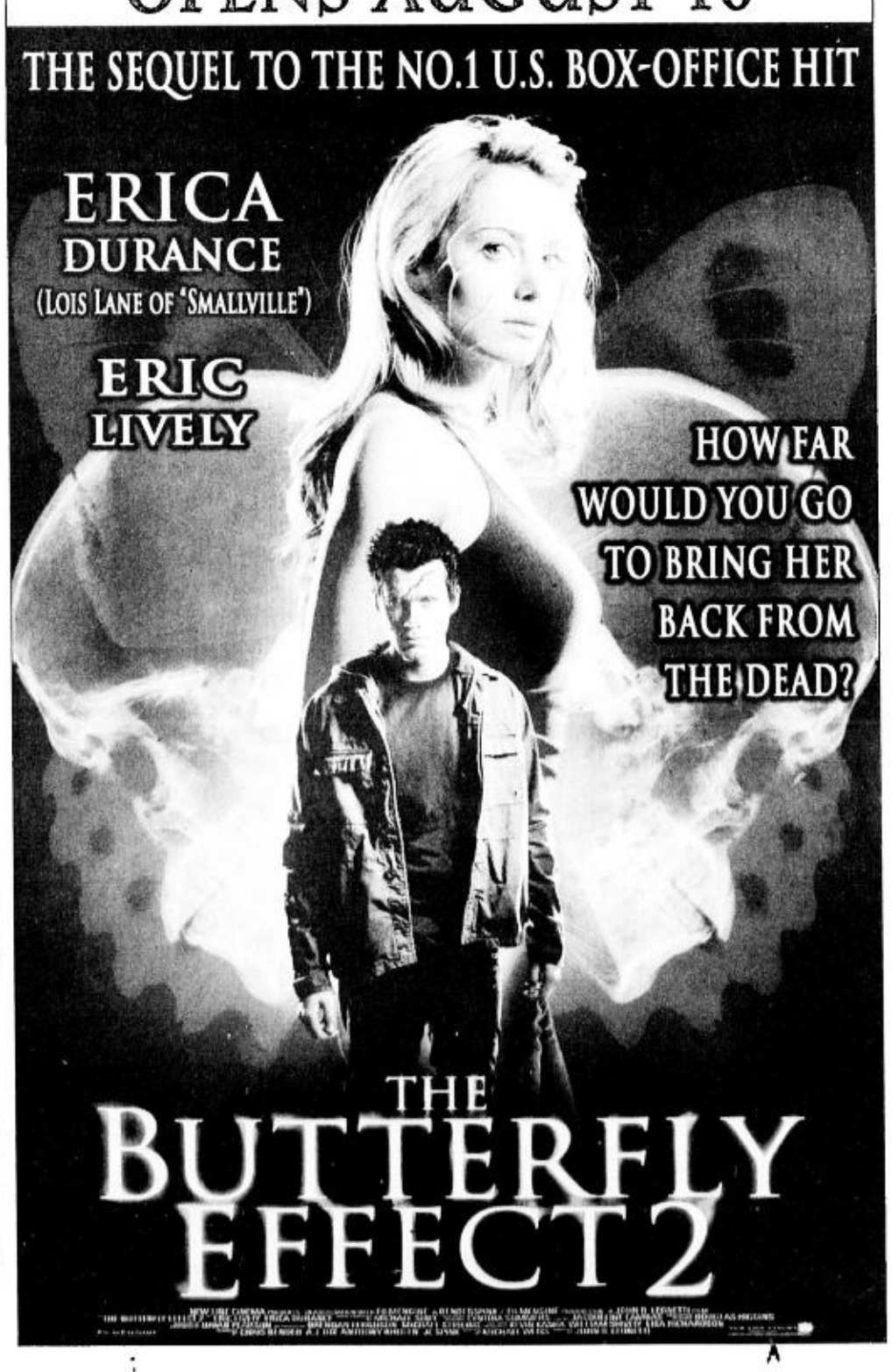
On HBO, Aug. 12 at 10:15 a.m., "As Good As It Gets." Aug. 13 at 8:30 p.m., "The Fugitive." Aug. 14 at 10 a.m., "True Lies." Aug. 15 at 5:45 p.m., "McHale's Navy." Aug. 16 at 10:15 a.m., "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events." Aug. 17 at 12:30 p.m., "Mermaids." Aug. 18 at 8 a.m., "The Last Days of Disco."

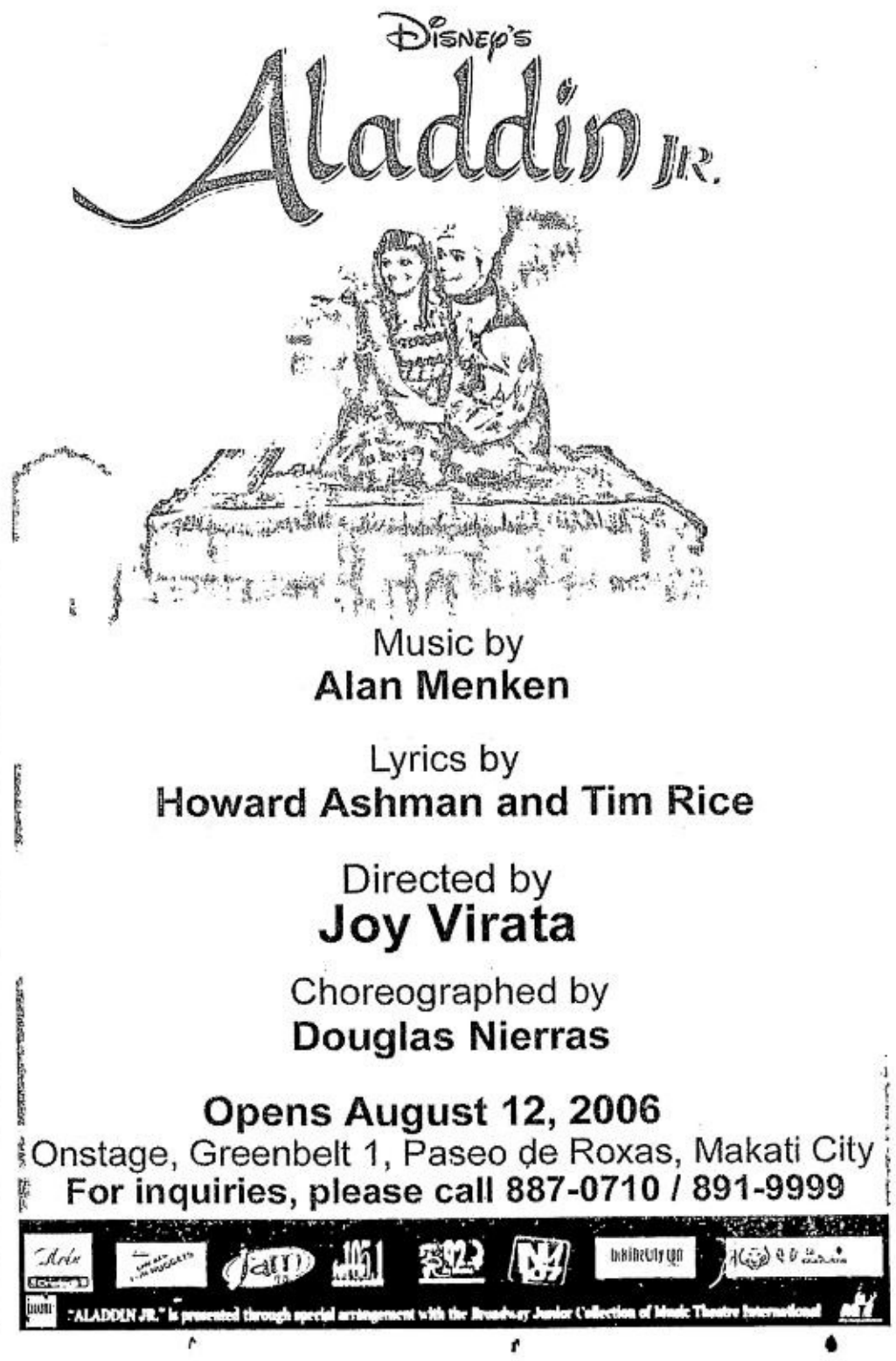
On Cinemax, Aug. 12 at 5:25 p.m., "It Could Happen to You." Aug 13 at 11:30 a.m., "Pleasantville." Aug. 14 at 4:20 p.m., "On A Clear Day You Can See Forever." Aug. 15 at 6:20 p.m., "Somebody Has to Shoot the Picture." Aug. 16 at 6:25 p.m., "Buffalo Soldiers." Aug. 17 at 2:55 p.m., "The Appaloosa." Aug. 18 at 2:10 p.m., "The World of Suzie Wong."

WEAVING plays the masked vigilante in James McTeigue's action-drama.









Significant start for 'Philippine Idol'

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER MUCH ADVANCE WORD *via* endless TV plugs, ABC 5's "Philippine Idol" finally started telecasting at 8 p.m. last Sunday, July 30.

If viewers expected something significantly different from the way "American Idol" leads up to its competition proper, they would have been disappointed.

We don't know if the patented format prevented divergence, or if the show's *Pinoy* staffers couldn't come up with any, but the start of "Philippine Idol" was very much like the old *orig*.

The *buena mano* episode focused on the tilt's Metro Manila eliminations, which came up with a whopping 100 standout singers. As we watched the show, however, we wondered how some of the "very promising" singers managed to make the cut.

Alarmed juror

So, it seemed, did one of the judges at one point in the search. When a mediocre singer made the grade, the alarmed juror thought it fitting to remind the other judges, "This is a singing contest." And so it should be!

So, why did the deficient singer get the two other jurors' nod? The reason appeared to have had something to do with their notion that the hyper "talent" could motivate the better singers in the next round to be similarly pepped-up in their performances.

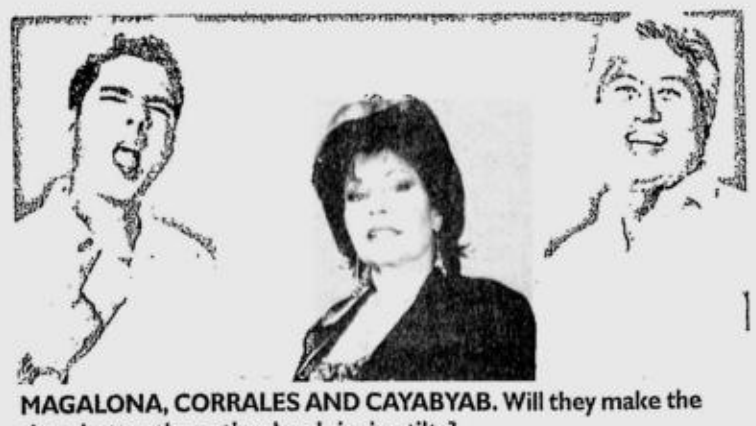
Exception

Happily, gaffes like this proved to be more the exception than the rule in the Metro Manila elims, as the three jurors (Ryan Cayabyab, Pilita Corrales, Francis M) efficiently rang in the good and eliminated the deficient.

(But why was Francis wearing dark glasses throughout the episode? To protect his orbs from the auditionees' stellar glare? And, is this any way to judge a talent show?)

As for the auditionees themselves, most were incompetent and only a few really stood out. Unfortunately, some of the incompetents were given more TV time than the standouts—in keeping with "American Idol's" cynical penchant for exploiting the pathetic delusions of "talents" who think they're much better singers than they really are.

Over and over, weeping and/or angry auditionees were shown pleading with the jurors or venting their spleen at the TV camera, vowing to prove the judges' "heartless" decisions wrong.



MAGALONA, CORRALES AND CAYABYAB. Will they make the show better than other local singing tilts?

Cynical

Alas, even this wasn't original, because "American Idol" dishes out the same calculated sass. In fact, we suspect that some of the local malcontents took their cue from the US original and decided to be volubly ornery so that they could get longer TV time than the other, more self-respecting auditionees. Well, cynicism is catching...

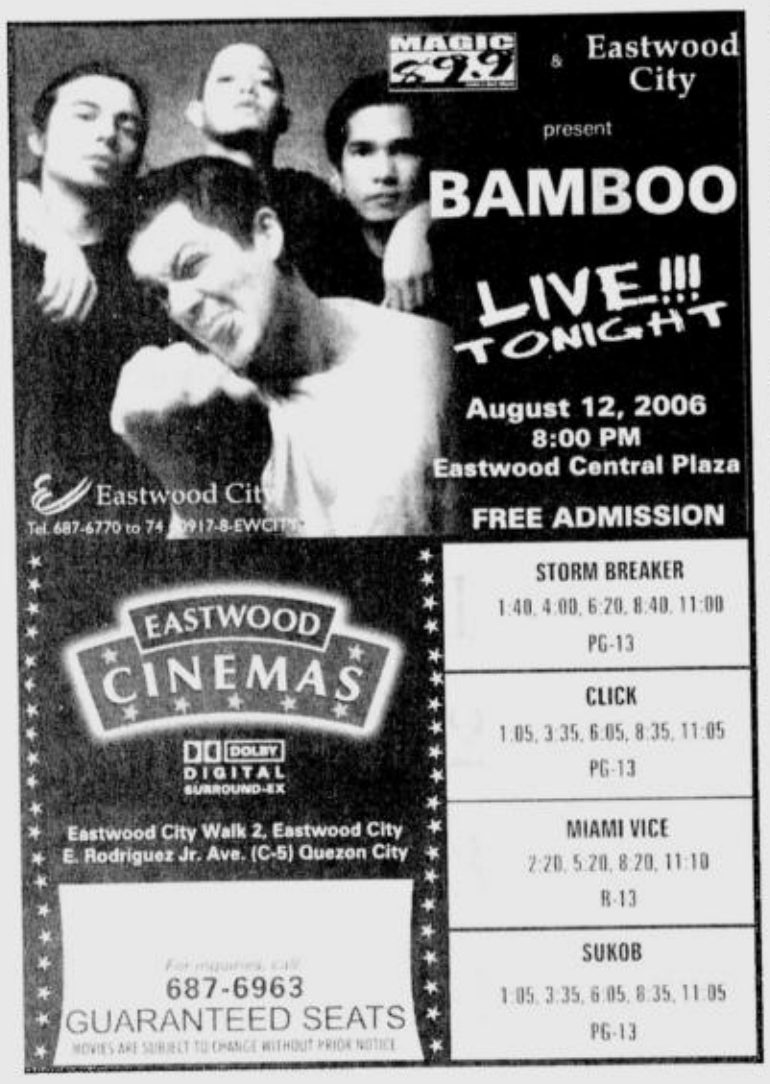
Last week, the show zeroed in on auditions in Cebu, and it will next go to Davao, before it covers the second round of auditions for the 163 "survivors" of the initial auditions.

We don't doubt that "Philippine Idol" will come up with some really outstanding young finalists, so hopes are high that the local search will be successful—possibly even triumphant.

Bottomline question

But, the big bottomline question is, will it be better than the other local singing tilts that are all over the tube?

With Ryan, Pilita and Francis on board, there's a good chance of that happening. But, with viewers' text votes having the final say? The outcome is iffy.



NOW SHOWING

Dark flicks explore love, intrigue and treachery

By Rito P. Asilo

"Umaaraw, Umuulan"

D: Richard Arellano
S: Ryan Agoncillo, Precious Lara Quigaman

RICHARD ARELLANO'S INtriguing psychological drama spins a clever yarn about an aspiring screenwriter, Paolo Santillan (Ryan Agoncillo), who sinks into depression after he catches his girlfriend, Rhea (Mariel Rodriguez), with another guy—just as he's about to propose marriage.

Shorttly after, however, Paolo finds his ideal woman in the mysterious Lynette Santiago (Precious Lara Quigaman), a damsel in distress who soon moves in with him and his childhood friend *cum* driver, the deaf-mute Berto (Herbert Bautista).

But, something is amiss: None of his friends—not even his mom, Lydia (Chanda Romero)—can seem to catch her in Paolo's flat when they drop by for a visit. What's happening here?

For starters, chemistry—or lack of it—between Agoncillo and Quigaman. They have photogenic mugs, but generate few sparks, so their scenes together fizzle fast.

Agoncillo does his best to get under the skin of his complex role, but he ultimately lacks the *gravitas* needed to pull off a broodingly dark character with a serious mental problem—which, to our astonishment, doesn't alarm Berto and Lydia fast enough to seek immediate professional help for the delusional Paolo.

EVANS AND YELCHIN. Turn in powerful performances.

Ryan, however, finds able support in Bautista and an impressive string of cameos: Joel Torre, Romnick Sarmenta—and a radiant Judy Ann Santos.

Arellano is unable to fully realize the vast potential of Adolf Alix Jr.'s noirish screenplay, and the movie is further hampered by too much use of background music and unnecessarily lingering shots, so the story is played out with not much urgency and narrative tension.

Using the country's two seasons to help dramatize the film's narrative flow, the movie, jointly produced by Harlene Bautista and her siblings, is nevertheless a welcome addition to the current wave of digital movies that don't just challenge a moviegoer's mind, but also boldly veer away from the trite storytelling styles of mainstream filmmaking.

Moreover, the production dispenses optimistic, fortune-cookie wisdom: While life and love sometimes play cruel jokes on us, they're also capable of pulling us back on the road to recovery. Then, we move on—saner, stronger and wiser. Ahem.

"Fierce People"

D: Griffin Dunne
S: Diane Lane, Chris Evans

After Doris Dorrie's inane 1988 comedy, "Me and Him," about a man with a talking penis, it took some time for "Fierce People's" director, Griffin Dunne, to live down the role and get taken seriously—not even after directing the Sandra Bullock-Nicole Kidman starrer "Practical Magic."

In his latest project, Dunne treads darker territory in a tale about Liz Earl (Diane Lane), a beautiful massage therapist, and her son, Finn (Anton Yelchin), who find themselves sucked into the mysterious world of rich and flashy tycoon, Ogden Osborne (Donald Sutherland)—and his grandchildren, Bryce and Maya—after they relocate from New York to suburban New Jersey.

Beneath Osborne's life of affluence and privilege, however, are unsettling family secrets that further threaten the already shaky relationship of Liz and Finn, who blames his mother for his estranged relationship with his anthropologist-father, who's in South America studying the culture of the fierce Yanomani tribe.

Dunne's valiant effort to come up with a substantial film falls victim to a cluttered narrative, and is further confounded by the director's propensity to mix in as many dark themes as he can think of: Sex, deception, historical intrigue, unplanned pregnancy, murder, mental illness, greed, even male rape!

The film, despite a brilliant cast (Lane, Sutherland, Yelchin and the beautifully sinister Chris Evans as Bryce turn in powerful performances), is provocative, but, because of expository clutter, never quite reaches its emotional climax, and soon loses credibility by attempting to say more than it should.

But, here's a curious detail that begs for Dunne's explanation: The production juxtaposes the eccentricities and sexual proclivities of a rich and influential modern family with a mysterious tribe's savage culture in South America.

But, an elderly tribesman, who appears in Finn's dreams, gives him philosophical nuggets—in Tagalog! He advises: "*Paluwagin mo ang iyong puso, para maging matibay ang iyong pagmamahal!*" Huh?

The illusion of celebrity

MEL GIBSON SAID STUPID THINGS WHEN he was caught drunk-driving recently. And the American media strongly reacted to it and wondered why. These are things they should be reminded about:

1. Actors, like ordinary people, are human beings, too. They have weaknesses and imperfections. Problem is, the media paints pretty pictures of them—they're always more adorable and glamorous than the rest of us. We get caught up in the illusion of celebrity. It shocks us to see our idols cracking under pressure.

Inner core

Why does a superstar like Mel get drunk and say offensive things? Why do some celebrities—people we look up to—take drugs or commit suicide? Fact is, the media creates a movie star's shiny image and personality, but his inner core isn't changed by his fabricated exterior. Don't get fooled by packaging.

2. Alcohol ruins intelligence—and lives. It has besmirched Gibson's credibility and reputation. Alcohol damages the liver, brain and other parts of the body. Worse, it ruins relationships.

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A drunk is not only a hazard on the road, he also becomes dangerous in his own home. Friends and family members are exposed to physical and emotional abuse when a member of the household is an alcoholic.

Resources

3. People say stupid things everyday. Why do we use our precious resources to broadcast them? Let's focus on what makes a better world. Let's not get caught up in the trimmings—the glitz and glitter—of fame. Take the good, get rid of the bad. Sometimes, we just get too immersed in the stink to focus on the splendor.

Diverse treats . . .

From page F7

accommodate the show's advertisement-light running time. Also, the segments' beginning and ending needed more polish.

Beneath the show's sleek veneer is a free-wheeling spirit that makes it viewer-friendly. Sherman isn't worried about making mistakes in front of the camera, and this gives the interviews a spontaneous let's-see-what-happens quality. And Udit Sarte's standup-comic-like portion, while not always funny, gives the show a down-to-earth feel.

But, what truly set "The Lynn Sherman Show" apart are its musical numbers: We were bowled over by the performance of "Star in a Million" runner-up, Niko Maca, who fused Brazilian music with electronica and brick beats. Salsa Manila's dance number was another outstanding number.

And, of course, there's Lynn herself, whose telegenic looks and Bedouin-like spirit resonate throughout the show.

Food tripping with Marvin and Jolina

FUN TV COUple, Marvin Agustin and Jolina Magdangal, grace the cover of the August issue of Mr. & Ms.

You will be surprised at how the two stars like their food as they fondly talk about their likes and dislikes when it comes to eating.

"*Bata pa lang ako, malakas nang kumain ang pamilya ko. Noon, ako ang inuutusan ng mga kapatid ko na magsaing, magprito, at mamalengke, kasi ako ang* youngest," Marvin reveals.

For her part, Jolina shares, "*Kahit anong pagkain, basta may sawsawan!*"

Careers

Read more about the two as they discuss their careers and their lifestyles. But, food is the focus of their lively interview, as it is the center of the August issue of Mr. & Ms.

The magazine promotes healthy lifestyle in its special issue on food, and encourages everyone to take the high road to nutrition. This, aside from interesting articles on food:

Are You Dieting? Use Chopsticks! Indeed, it may be the first time you've heard of this suggestion. But, a pair of chopsticks, rich in history and virtually an emblem of Asian cuisine, may just help you curb that appetite.

Read about chocolates, too. If you feel guilty after biting into a luscious bar, you will be happy to read a feature on that delicious cocoa product, debunking facts on how fattening—and unhealthy—it is.

Diverse treats on 'The Lynn Sherman Show'

By Rito P. Asilo

SHERMAN. Anything-goes rapport with her guests.

TIRED OF THE TRITE, CONcept-free mishmash of song-and-dance routines on local TV? You must be wondering: Where have all the good musical-variety-talk shows gone?

Unfortunately, most of them have folded, and there aren't enough alternative viewing options in sight. What we get, instead, is an incessant barrage of in-your-face reality programs. Even the loquacious but entertaining Martin Nievera and the irreverent but immensely talented Edu Manzano are sadly on hosting hiatus.

Novel alternative

Happily, you'll find a novel alternative elsewhere on UHF: "The Lynn Sherman Show" airs every Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. on RJTV 29 (channels 19 on Sky and Home cables and 79 on Destiny).

Recently, we viewed some episodes of the show to see what jazz singer and theater actress Lynn is up to these days.

Given Lynn's classy image, we were initially worried that we'd be bombarded with self-indulgent guests with wershy-uppity twangs who would, in no time, send us reeling into narcolepsy.

Infectious energy

To our delight—and despite some portions' harried pace and an inchoate, incoherent feel—Lynn's show proved us wrong. With spontaneous brio and infectious energy, Sherman and her guests kept us glued to the TV screen:

In one episode, familiar faces from the theater scene enlivened the show with their wit and candor. The irrepressible Topper Fabregas and Jenny Jamora led the cast of Repertory Philippines' "Aladdin," directed by Joy Virata and choreographed by Douglas Nierras, which opened at Greenbelt's Onstage this week. (Call 887-0710.)

On the other hand, the affable Michael Williams sat on Lynn's couch to discuss the Maria Callas play ("Master Class") he directed recently, and AAI's theatrical drama, "Death and the Maiden," he's acting in (Call 536-5844). Come to think of it: Which other shows on the small screen vigorously promote theater productions?

It was a treat to hear Lynn's raspy, sultry voice—with a live band, at that—especially when she reworked songs like Lisa Stansfield's "Change" or The Zombies' "She's Not There."

Unpretentious

But, it was Sherman's unpretentious hosting style and anything-goes rapport with her guests (from the recording and concert scenes, TV and film, fashion, the theater and visual arts) that made the show viewable. Tempered irreverence peppered with tongue-in-cheek caution always make for engaging viewing.

On the downside, the improvisational *tete-a-tetes* (with designer Dobie Aranda and graphic artist Conrad Mananes, for example), tended to be repetitive, especially when Lynn needed to stretch segments to

DIVERSE/ F6

Safrudi . . .

From page F8

been made available to the domestic market.

Areas now covered by the foundation's integrated social development program are Gabaldon and Gapan in Nueva Ecija, Bayombong in Pangasinan, Talim Island in Binangonan, Rizal, Carcar in Cebu, and Sta. Ana in Manila.

The foundation's Fair Trade orientation should be emulated by other manufacturers and distributors, because it honors the importance of the workers who create the products that are sold, and safeguards their rights, health and safety.

It disallows child labor and other abusive practices, assures fair wages and prices, and protects the environment by using natural resources responsibly.

Positive effects

Our eyes having been opened to the many positive effects of Fair Trade, we've decided to support Safrudi and ManoMano, not just by writing about them, but by purchasing their products as gifts for our friends and loved ones.

If you also want to support this worthy organization, call (632) 564-4169, 561-0395, or visit www.safrudi.com, or the Safrudi and ManoMano compound at 2594 Lamayan st., Sta. Ana, Manila.

Winding up our talk, we asked Fr. Guido how the foundation will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Aug. 19. He said that the celebration will start at 8:30 a.m. with the blessing of the new museum

MULLIE. Safrudi founder.

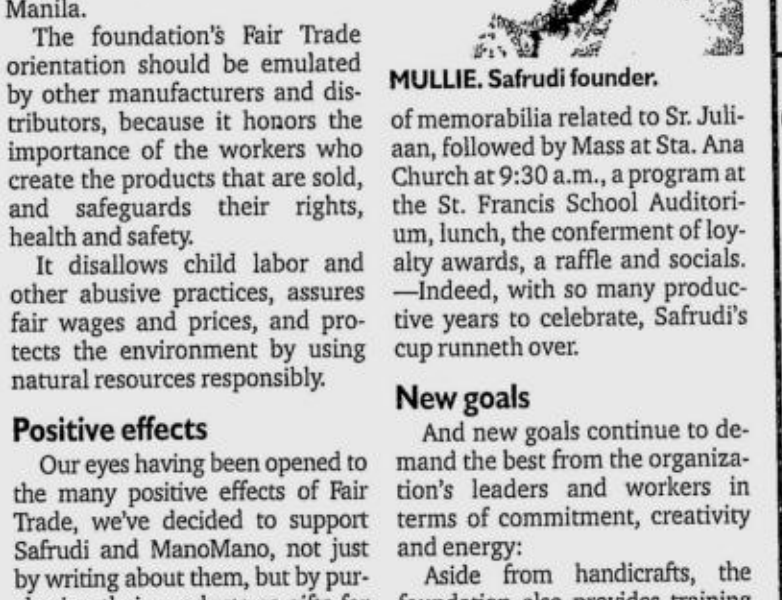
of memorabilia related to Sr. Juliaan, followed by Mass at Sta. Ana Church at 9:30 a.m., a program at the St. Francis School Auditorium, lunch, the conferment of loyalty awards, a raffle and socials. —Indeed, with so many productive years to celebrate, Safrudi's cup runneth over.

New goals

And new goals continue to demand the best from the organization's leaders and workers in terms of commitment, creativity and energy:

Aside from handicrafts, the foundation also provides training for community-based health workers, nutrition, feeding programs, training in organic farming, cooperatives—not to mention enhancing everyone's spirituality.

Fr. Guido enthuses: "We in Safrudi must be open to the Spirit. We must search for bolder steps which can help us meet new challenges. *All* of us are a part of this, as we look forward with commitment, imagination and joy—to our next 40 years!"



FR. GUIDO and ManoMano workers, and some of their best-sellers (clockwise from top center, inset), the Capiz Bird of Peace, Christmas tree topper and Capiz lamp.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
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FINEPLEX
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE
PREMIERE
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK
5 STORMBREAKER

metropolis star cinema
www.clicktheurb.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8594285, 5433994
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2

THEATRES
1 WOLF CREEK
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA
CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5771
SUKOB
CHAOS
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 STORMBREAKER
2 MIAMI VICE
3 ANT BULLY
4 CLICK
5 THE PRODUCERS
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
7 SUKOB
8 JUST MY LUCK
9 THE BREAK UP
10 SUKOB

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 SUKOB
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CLICK
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 MIAMI VICE
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER
5 WILD ORCHID-2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 TAMARA
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SUKOB
2 STORMBREAKER
3 ANT BULLY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 THE BREAK UP

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBEAN-2
2 LAKE HOUSE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 STORMBREAKER
2 CLICK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THE DARK
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 THE DARK
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 CHAOS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AMERICAN SOLDIER
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 NACHO LIBRE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUSE-3

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 CHAOS
2 ISLA ASUL
3 NENA INOSENTE
4 HOUSE OF FURY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SUKOB
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 CLICK
4 THE DARK
5 BANDIDAS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 DOMINO
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 STORMBREAKER
2 PARAISO SA GUBAT

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GALLERIA 636-29716
1 MIAMI VICE • THX 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
2 CLICK 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 FIERCE PEOPLE 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
4 STORMBREAKER 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
5 SUKOB 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 LADY IN THE WATER 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
7 THE BREAK-UP 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
9 JUST MY LUCK 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 THE ANT BULLY 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 838-7809 to 12
1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:50 3:10 6:20 9:30
3 FIERCE PEOPLE 11:45 1:50 3:55 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 STORMBREAKER 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
5 SUKOB 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 THE ANT BULLY 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50
7 MIAMI VICE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 ; 682-8199
1 THE BREAK-UP 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 THE ANT BULLY 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
3 SUKOB 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
4 MIAMI VICE 12:55 3:30 6:10 9:00
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
6 JUST MY LUCK 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
7 CLICK 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
8 STORMBREAKER 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 435-3231 ; 435-3228-30
1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 WOLF CREEK
4 SUKOB

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER

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Fill in the missing letters to complete the right answer
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M.. C H _ E L M _ N N
2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie.
.. O L _N E A _ R _ L L
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
R _C A _ D _ I _ _R S
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
S H _ E N _ E _ S I O _
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1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WILD ORCHID 2
4 SUKOB

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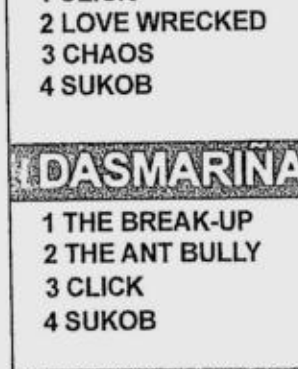
1 WOLF CREEK
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP
1 TAMARA
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 WOLF CREEK
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

BACOLOD (034) 441-0458 (034) 441-0459 ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 WOLF CREEK
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
6 WILD ORCHID 2
1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 LADY IN THE WATER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Mano Mano
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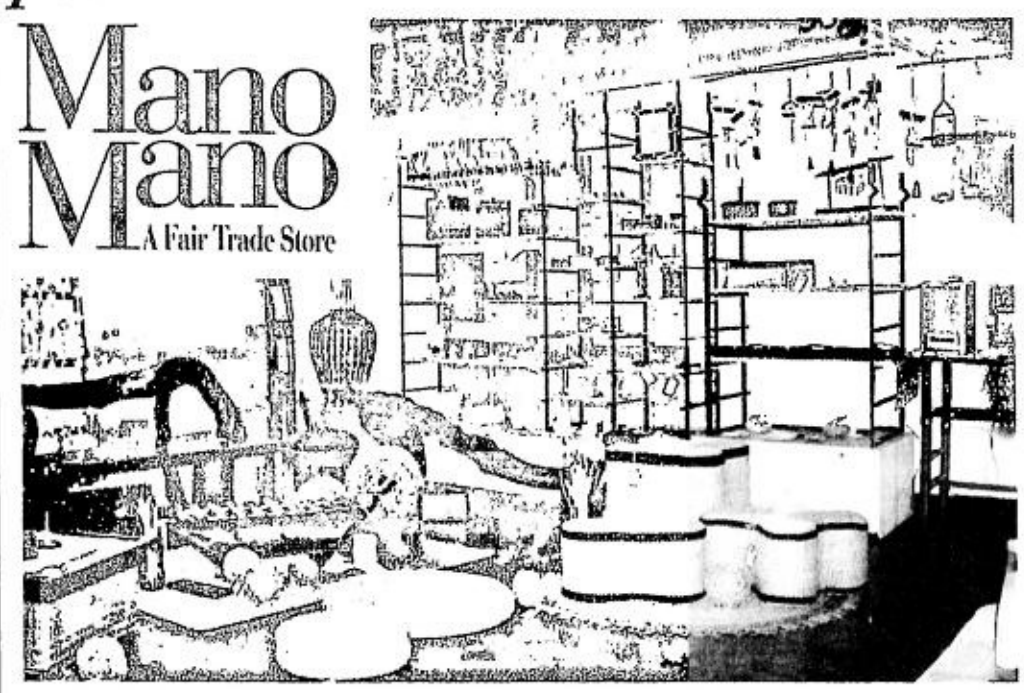


SAFRUDI'S Fair Trade Store is an exquisite showcase for the country's handicrafts, folk culture and traditions.

Safrudi vivifies Fair Trade movement's fine ideals

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME YEARS AGO, ON Lamayan street in Sta. Ana, Manila, we chanced upon a handicrafts sale at Safrudi, a crafts factory and outlet. We didn't know anything about the company, but we were delighted with its products and designs.

They were both beautiful and practical, and provided an exquisite showcase for the Philippines' crafts materials and folk culture and traditions.

EVERAERT. Livelihood, health and sustainable agriculture.

Variety

Flashforward more than five years, and we again found ourselves at Safrudi, this time to witness the opening of its new ManoMano Fair Trade Store. After the beautiful showcase was blessed, guests were taken on a tour of its exhibit and display of exclusively Philippine-made handicrafts, and we all marveled at the products' range, variety and beauty.

Even better, Safrudi's chairman of the board, Fr. Guido V. Everaert, CICM, gave us an overview of and backgrounder on what Safrudi, ManoMano and the Fair Trade movement were all about.

He informed us that SAFRUDI stood for the Social Action Foundation for Rural and Urban Development Inc. initiated by an ICM sister.

Impressively, Safrudi has been dynamically active in the Philippines for decades—in fact, it's celebrating its 40th anniversary on Aug. 19!

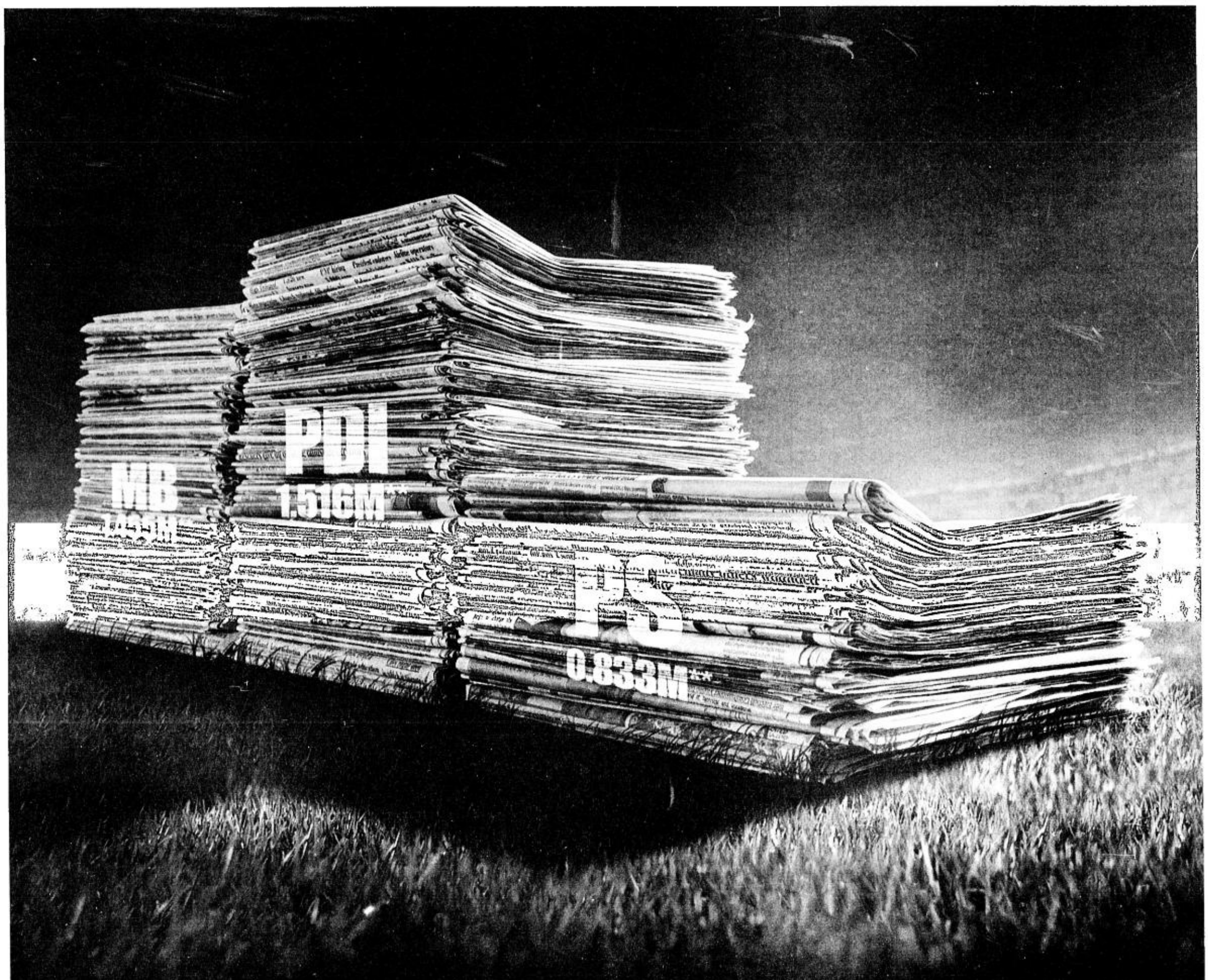
Founded by Sr. Juliaan Mullie, ICM, Safrudi is a nonstock, nonprofit empowering organization that shares knowledge, skills and resources in promoting livelihood, health and sustainable agriculture for the poor, deprived and oppressed.

Alternative market

Following a fair trading system, it assists small handicraft producers through market access, education, skills training and micro-financing. Their handmade crafts are popular in the alternative market globally, under the prized trade name, Saffy.

Now, with the opening of its ManoMano showcase store, its unique products have also

SAFRUDI'S/ F7



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Sunday, August 13, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 246 P18 website: www.inq7.net

OPINION / A11

Randy David: What is emerging—after a month of continuous pounding of Lebanese towns—is that Hezbollah, which has developed into a fulcrum of Lebanese national unity, cannot be destroyed even if Israel kills half of the population

NEWS / A2

Owwa lost millions in Smokey Mountain project investment, joint venture of gov't and R-II Builders, says COA report

NEWS / A2

Piatco owner allegedly laundered millions through bank account of its mysterious media/crisis management man

Gokongwei gives away P10.25B to education

By Vic Agustin

TAIPAN JOHN GOKONGWEI JR. MARKED HIS 80th birthday on Friday by donating an unprecedented P10.25 billion to education and other causes.

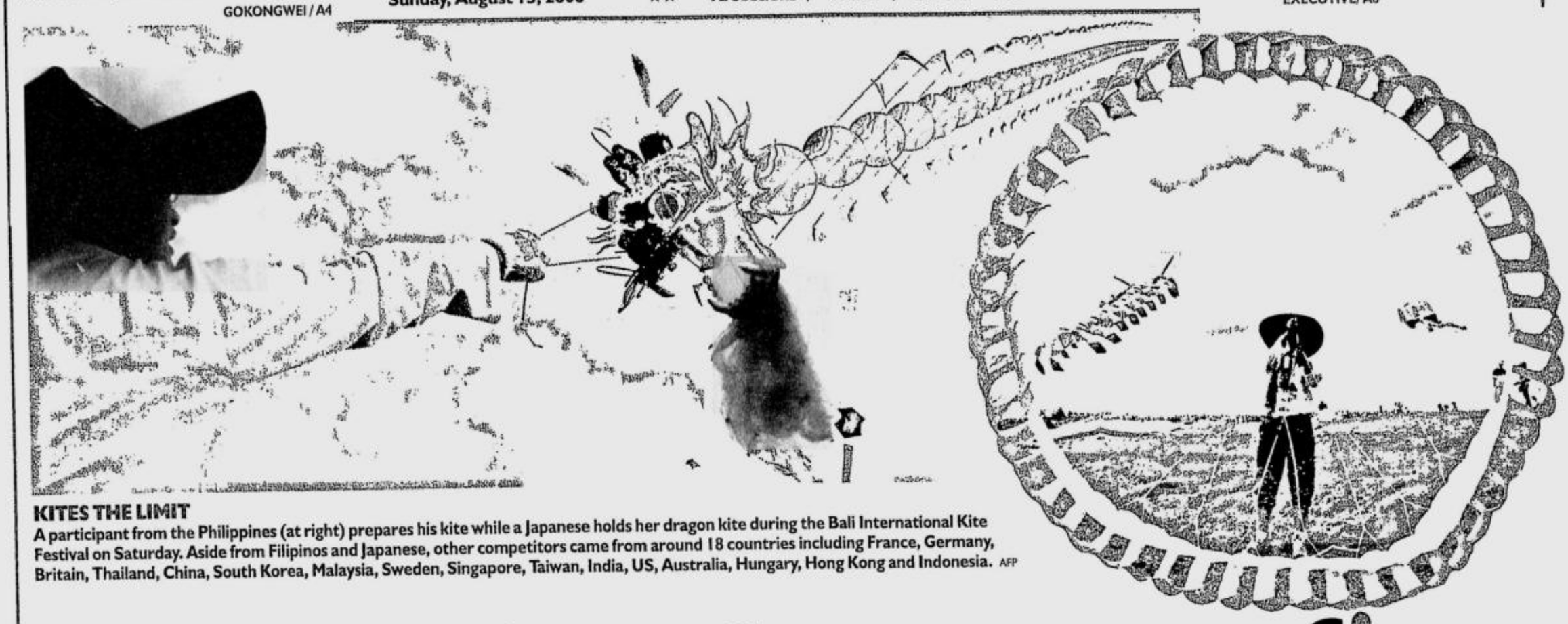
Gokongwei surprised his children and business associates by announcing that he would donate his entire personal shareholdings in JG

GOKONGWEI / A4

Executive jet: Only way to go in a time of terror

DO YOU LOATHE FLYING commercial? Do you get upset having to go through long lines of airport security only to be told you can't bring your laptop or $500-face cream in your carry-on luggage?

EXECUTIVE/ A8



KITES THE LIMIT
A participant from the Philippines (at right) prepares his kite while a Japanese holds her dragon kite during the Bali International Kite Festival on Saturday. Aside from Filipinos and Japanese, other competitors came from around 18 countries including France, Germany, Britain, Thailand, China, South Korea, Malaysia, Sweden, Singapore, Taiwan, India, US, Australia, Hungary, Hong Kong and Indonesia. AFP

UN votes for ceasefire

But Israel strikes deeper into Lebanon, killing 19

BEIRUT—THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL adopted Friday night a resolution to end the month-old war in Lebanon, but hours later, Israeli forces thrust deeper into the battered country and air strikes killed up to 19 people.

"This operation is aimed at preventing Hezbollah from firing rockets into northern Israel and is not limited in time," said the Israeli government spokesperson Avi Pazner.

Israel launched the "open-ended" ground offensive in the south on Saturday even though Prime Minister Ehud Olmert expressed support for Resolution 1701, which was passed by a unanimous vote of the 15-member council.

Main points of UN Security Council resolution 1701 are:

- Full cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks and immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations.
- Lebanon and Unifil (UN forces in Lebanon) to deploy their forces together throughout the south, and Israel to withdraw all of its forces from southern Lebanon.
- An increase in the force strength of Unifil from 2,000 to a maximum of 15,000 troops. The force shall monitor cessation of hostilities and accompany the Lebanese armed forces as they deploy throughout the south and as Israel withdraws.
- Importance of control of the Lebanese government over all Lebanese territory so that there will be no weapons

UN VOTES/ A8

WHAT'S INSIDE

The republic's battle hymn, the mere mention of its name—Bataan—is an ode to universal freedom
LIFESTYLE / D1

Sunny side of a superpower: The US' first female envoy to RP moves causes with a very human face and a sense of fun
SUNDAY MAGAZINE / 1

More 'Desperate' stories from the prettiest of the 'desperadas,' newlywed Marcia Cross, a Juilliard School-trained actress
ENTERTAINMENT / G1

'Kumustahan' discovers Pinoy idol/heartthrob Down Under who can hardly wait to sing for us folks back home
GLOBAL PINOY / A19

Pops Fernandez on her ex's remarks on her FHM sexy cover: Martin's always had a big mouth. He should have kept his feelings to himself
ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Phone call from Pakistan uncovers terrorist plot

AN INTERCEPT OF A TELEPHONE CALL made from Pakistan to Britain that urged plotters to go ahead and blow US-bound jetliners out of the skies played a crucial role in foiling the suicidal plan, officials said Saturday.

British and Pakistani authorities have arrested as many as 41 people in connection with the alleged plot to detonate disguised liquid explosives aboard as many as 10 planes.

"The terrorists intended a second Sept. 11," said Frances Fragos Townsend, White House homeland security adviser.

According to reports, those detained in pre-dawn police and security service raids in Britain on Thursday included a pizza delivery man, an accountant, a taxi driver and a student, ordinary people leading seemingly ordinary lives.

Some are family men with young children, others have pregnant wives. To relax they play football or watch cricket, live in unremarkable suburbs or commuter towns and pray at the local mosque.

The alleged terrorists planned to assemble their bombs aboard the aircraft, apparently with a peroxide-based solution disguised as beverages or other harmless-seeming items, and using such electronic equipment as a disposable camera or a music player as a detonator, two US law enforcement officials told The Associated Press.

A US intelligence official said they planned to deploy a couple of attackers per plane, and the two dozen plotters didn't all know one another—a typical security measure in terror groups.

London's Evening Standard reported the plotters apparently chose next Wednesday as a target date, since they had tickets for a United Airlines flight that

PHONE/ A8

Killing Fields survivor now Cambodia's water bearer

By Juan Rufino Vigilar
Contributor

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASY FOR EK Sonn Chan to go with the flow of corruption that continued to erode the government-run water system in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. After all, the utility appeared to be a hopeless case when he took charge in 1993.

Abandoned by the Khmer Rouge that made the capital a no-man's-land at the start of the war in 1975, it lay a legacy of leaking and rusty pipes, some installed 100 years earlier while the newest were 40 years old.

Foreign investors tended to shun appeals for aid, skeptical as they were of the ability and integrity of the leadership in one of the world's poorest countries.

As for Cambodia's citizens who survived the killing fields and flocked back to the capital after the war, they had sunk into accepting that rationed water, even 10 years later, was already a blessing.

When Ek—the 2006 Magsaysay Awardee for government service—was appointed to head the Phnom Penh Water System Authority in 1993, it was then

KILLING/ A4

Sisters act till death do them part

By Nikko Dizon

THEIR IDEA WAS SIMPLE: IF THEY DIED AND their bodies were subsequently found, people would know they were sisters.

Galvanized by this thought as well as the clear and present danger, sisters Jasmine and Joann Habiling purchased identical blouses—ruffled, off-shoulder, dark green—to wear on their perilous journey out of Lebanon.

As it turned out, Jasmine and Joann made it home safely on Friday along with 448 other Filipino workers on board Orient Thai Airways' flight OEA 7448 chartered by the International Organization for Migration out of Damascus, Syria.

The sisters had earlier stayed a couple of days at the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Lebanon, the relocation center for Filipino refugees, where they learned that they would soon embark on the 11-hour journey to Damascus.

Expecting the worst, they hit on their idea. So they grabbed a cab and went to a Filipino store in Beirut where they bought the dainty blouses.

Asked at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport why she and Jasmine were wearing identical tops, Joann, 24, said: "*Para pag namatay kami, o kaya isa sa amin, malalaman na magkapatid kami.*"

Then the sisters dissolved in giggles, as though struck by the absurdity of their idea.

"But it was what was really on our minds. We didn't know what would happen to us," said Jasmine, 26.

The eighth and ninth of 10 siblings, Jasmine and Joann had been working as household in Beirut for a year and a half when the war between Hezbollah militants and Israeli forces erupted a month ago.

They had different employers. Their contracts

SISTERS / A4

STAYING ALIVE: Joann (left) and Jasmine Habiling wanted to make sure that if they were killed during their perilous escape, those who found their bodies would know they were sisters by wearing identical blouses.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/07/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Owwa loses millions to Smokey Mountain

By Maricar D. Tolosa
INQUIRER Research

FUNDS OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRAtion grew 6 percent to P8.6 billion last year but it may be reduced by P480 million should Owwa follow a Commission on Audit recommendation to provide an allowance for a loss it incurred in the Smokey Mountain Project.

A source, who is familiar with the report but refuses to be named, said the recommendation was contained in the COA reports for 2004 and 2005. As of end-2005, Owwa still had claims of P479.3 million against the Home Guaranty Corp.

The claims stemmed from Owwa's 1995 investment in the Smokey Mountain Project, a joint venture of the National Housing Authority and R-II Builders.

The Smokey Mountain project involved the development of the former dump in Tondo into a residential and commercial complex.

To finance the development, asset participation certificates (APC's)—considered government securities—were issued. The APCs, including the 8.5-percent annual interest, were fully guaranteed by HGC.

Owwa invested P459.47 million in December 1995. Its certificates had a face value of P500 million.

But R-II Builders, which is owned by controversial businessman Reghis Romero II, defaulted upon maturity of the APCs in 2000 when these already amounted to P835 million.

When R-II Builders defaulted, Owwa sought payment from HGC. In 2002, HGC agreed to pay P500 million and to issue debenture bonds worth P335 million plus interest of 8.5 percent annually.

In January 2003, P500 million was paid in cash to Owwa. But only P72 million worth of bonds was issued by HGC.

Although HGC committed to release P300 million worth of bonds on or before June 2005, no definite timetable was given for its complete settlement, according to the COA 2004 report, which is available on the commission's website.

POEA debt written off

The COA 2005 report showed that HGC was only able to issue bonds again in October 2005 but only for P100 million.

Though Owwa "earned" P40.5 million when it got paid P500 million by HGC for its investments, the income came only after seven years and was way below what could have been earned had R-II Builders paid its obligations.

The source said Owwa did not necessarily have to write-off the entire receivables from HGC.

But in the case of the P48.75 million owed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), Owwa wrote off the entire amount in 2005 after years of booking it as assets despite failing to get payments.

COA previously noted that the amount had the remote probability of being collected.

For 2005, the source said, the POEA debt written off by Owwa was a big part of the P89.96-million "absence of provision for doubtful accounts on long outstanding claims receivable."

This item, along with other adjustments, resulted in a net decrease of P111.834 million in Owwa funds.

The POEA and Smokey Mountain cases negate Owwa's main objective, as stated in its Omnibus Policies, of ensuring "the efficiency of collection and the viability and sustainability of the fund through sound and judicious investment and fund management policies."

The receivables from the POEA arose from the sale by Owwa to the POEA of a property for P77.5 million in November 1984.

Although the POEA made payments immediately after the transaction was finalized, it failed to settle its balance until it had to request a condonation in November 2003 due to lack of funds. Owwa did not respond to this.

COA recommended in its 2004 report that changes be made to the fund balance due to the likelihood that the amount would not be collected from the POEA.

Aside from the HGC and POEA transactions, Owwa was involved in the transfer of medicare functions and funds of P530.38 million to Philippine Health Insurance Corp.

The transfer may be controversial "but not anomalous" because "the transfer occurred well after the 2004 elections and [because] Philhealth has better expertise in carrying out medicare services than Owwa," said the source.

The COA 2005 report showed that the transfer only took place in 2005 or two years after the issuance of Executive Order No. 182 on Feb. 14, 2003.

PIATCO FIASCO

'Mystery man' in news again

By Jocelyn R. Uy

REMEMBER ALFONSO LIongson, the mysterious media and crisis management consultant of the the builder of the still-to-be-opened Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport?

Well, his name came up again on Friday in the Pasay City court that is hearing the expropriation case filed by the national government against the Philippine International Air Terminals Inc.

Liongson was the controversial figure which eluded investigators of the Senate blue ribbon committee that looked into the allegedly anomalous and onerous contract of Piatco to build and operate Naia's Terminal 3 in 2002. He appeared in the records as the man who received $200,000 a month for his services as public relations and crisis management consultant for Piatco under a contract totaling $4.4 million.

Liongson, who was suspected to be fronting for unnamed high officials in government, never answered summons by the committee.

On Friday, it was alleged by the lawyer of Rep. Salacnib Baterina that Piatco owner Cheng Yong laundered millions through the bank account under Liongson's name

Money laundering

Jose Bernas, Baterina's counsel, showed several documents indicating that Cheng withdrew money from Liongson's bank account.

Baterina was among those who had filed a motion for intervention in the case, claiming that the expropriation case should be dismissed and Piatco should not be compensated because the facility was built "in bad faith" and Piatco's contract to build Naia's Terminal 3 was obtained by fraud and corruption.

The Supreme Court had declared the Piatco contract grossly disadvantageous to the government and therefore null and void.

"Liongson was supposedly being paid... but look who is authorized to withdraw from Liongson's account? It's Cheng Yong. Why will he pay Liongson so that he could withdraw it from the latter's account? Obviously, so that the money could be used for something else," Bernas told reporters Friday.

He said the expropriation proceedings would only mean "paying Piatco more money that it should get."

Piatco lawyer Moises Tolentino said Bernas' claims were mere allegations unless proven in the appropriate court.

Also on Friday, the Regional Trial Court Branch 117 junked Baterina's motion and those of others seeking intervention in the expropriation proceedings of Terminal 3.

In an omnibus decision, Judge Jesus Mupas, acting presiding judge of Pasay City RTC, dismissed the motions filed by Baterina, lawyer Manuel Fortes Jr., the two Japanese contractors, Takenaka Corp. and Asahikosan Corp., the Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. (AEDC) and employees of the Piatco represented by Gina Alnas.

Overlapping ownership and payments claims on the multi-billion-peso airport facility has prevented the government from running Naia 3.

In December 2005, the Supreme Court gave the green light to operate Naia 3. At the same time, the high court ordered the government to pay Piatco an initial amount of P3 billion for "just compensation."

In the same year, Baterina and Fortes filed motions to intervene in the expropriation proceedings, invoking their rights as taxpayers.

Baterina had filed the motion saying it was his duty as legislator to "curtail the disbursement without appropriation of public funds to compensate Piatco."

Pimentel: No antiterror bill until killings stop

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

NO ANTITERROR BILL UNTIL POLITICAL killings stop.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. made this challenge to Malacañang after it called for the speedy passage of the law against terrorism, following the discovery of a terrorist plot to blow up transatlantic flights from the United Kingdom to the United States.

Pimentel said he believed there was a need for an anti-terror law to combat the increasingly sophisticated methods employed by terrorists.

However, it would be unwise for Congress to approve the anti-terror bill while the administration had not shown its sincerity and determination in solving and preventing killings attributed to the police and military authorities, he said.

"The problem with the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo is that even if there is no anti-terrorism law, it has been harassing people perceived to be her political enemies. They are being treated like terrorists," Pimentel said in a statement.

The senator cited the government's failure to solve the disappearance of two female students of the University of the Philippines and a farmer from Hagonoy, Bulacan last June 26, as well as the cases of other student activists, who were allegedly abducted by soldiers.

"[Since] it is not clear how President Arroyo will make use of the anti-terrorism act, it's probably better not to have it passed. Or the President should resign first before we can discuss this legislation," Pimentel said.

The Senate is still deliberating on the consolidated bills seeking to define acts of terrorism and to provide penalties.

But the Senate leadership under new President Manuel Villar has listed the antiterror bill as among the top five bills lined up for priority attention during the present session.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, said the Senate should lose no time in passing the anti-terror bill to give law enforcement agencies the legal framework to curb terrorism.

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English pushed for schools

By Philip C. Tubeza

CONGRESS IS BENT on approving a bill reintroducing English as the mandatory language of teaching in all school levels starting next year, according to a senior lawmaker.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte said yesterday lawmakers were "absolutely determined" to pass House Bill 4701, which proposes to reinstate English as the medium of instruction in schools.

Once enacted, the bill would effectively supplant Department of Education Order No. 25, series of 1974, which proclaimed a "bilingual" teaching policy.

"We intend to push for the bill's approval on the floor in the days ahead. We want the measure passed right away so that all requirements, such as new English textbooks and the mass retooling of teachers, can be fully funded by the 2007 budget, in time for the broad revival of the language next school year," Villafuerte said in a statement.

HK raid on Piatco law firm upheld

By Smiley D. Julve

HONG KONG—A JUDGE here has dismissed an attempt by a company secretarial office affiliated with the Romulo law firm in Manila to declare as illegal a raid conducted on its premises by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

The raid was carried out at the request of the Philippine government, which allegedly believed that RMBSA Corporate Services Limited was used to pay bribes to facilitate the construction and operation of a new terminal at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

In a written judgment handed down Thursday, Justice Michael Hartmann of the Court of First Instance said the April 12 raid on RMBSA Corporate Services Limited was carried out in accordance with a valid search warrant issued by a magistrate.

Counsel for RMBSA had sought to quash the warrant, saying the magistrate failed to take adequate steps to ensure that only those materials subject of the warrant would be included in the search.

As a result, files belonging to the Romulo law firm which shared the premises with RMBSA, were allegedly among those seized during the raid.

This act, said RMBSA's counsel, presented the risk that the "legal professional privilege" vested in clients of law offices under Hong Kong law, would be undermined.

Apart from applying to have the warrant declared illegal, RMBSA also asked for the return of the materials seized.

In dismissing the application, Hartmann said the magistrate was fully aware that RMBSA was sharing the premises with the law firm.

"The law of Hong Kong, as it stands, does not impose such an obligation [for the magistrate to set protective conditions] in each and every case in which the premises of a law firm is to be searched," he ruled.

The court heard that the Philippine government had sought the help of ICAC in accordance with Hong Kong's Mutual Legal Assistance Ordinance.

The investigating authorities in the Philippines reportedly believed that bribes paid to some government officials were channeled through two companies administered by RMBSA and incorporated in the British Virgin Islands: Jetstream Pacific Ltd. and Mainland Global Ltd.

The Philippine authorities informed the Hong Kong authorities that, to their understanding, RMBSA itself was affiliated with the Manila law firm of Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura, Sayoc and De los Angeles which represented Piatco, the consortium which had successfully bid to construct and operate the new terminal at Manila's international airport.

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Killing Fields survivor now Cambodia's water bearer

From page A1

being run by a bureaucracy used to nepotism and political ties, practically boring holes in the pipelines. Its main preoccupation was personal profit.

Alive for a purpose

Illegal water connections were being sold for about $1,000 each, causing some 70 percent of water revenue to be lost. There were no efficient monitoring and billing systems to speak of. Rich and highly-placed water users snubbed demands on them to pay up, while poorer ones made an excuse of their social superiors to shirk theirs.

Having survived the killing fields, where he lost every family member he knew, Ek believed he was alive for a purpose.

He returned home armed with little more than an electrical engineering background and some work experience in France before the war.

His emotional appeal to help his people move on from its violent history, to rescue them from their "suffering in time of peace because of our water," finally convinced foreign investors to look Cambodia's way.

Word of honor

Loans from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the Japanese and French governments amounting to $110 million flowed in. This allowed Ek not only to jump-start the rehabilitation of a moribund utility but also to rectify its culture of corruption.

Cambodia has not been put to shame. Ek's word of honor, upheld by a dedicated leadership, has made the PPWSA what it is today: A commercially viable entity that is paying back its loans and, on its own, can finance the expansion of the capital's water system to poorer areas.

A far cry from its decrepit state some 10 years earlier when the utility could not even pay its electric bills, with operating costs exceeding income by a billion in local currency. Sometimes, it could not even buy the chemicals needed for proper water treatment.

Water 24 hours a day

To date, more than 750 km of new pipes have been added from an original 280 km. Two pumping and treatment plants have been repaired, and a third added, each of which can supply a million people with running water 24 hours each day.

In 2004, the ADB awarded the utility its Water Prize.

For 85 percent of the people of Phnom Penh, the PPWSA's rehabilitation means a 24-hour water service. Back in 1993, only about 20 percent of the capital was lucky to have running water at appointed hours each day.

Ek is optimistic that by 2015, the utility would exceed UN expectations and be able to provide water to 95 percent of the projected population.

Clean water, through the proper treatment and filtration of storm water and seepage that come with the seasonal monsoon rains, also meant a dramatic decrease in the incidence of diarrhea that had been a major cause of death in children below five years old.

Among his biggest challenges, Ek says, was dealing directly with water users. Water pilferage was rampant and the only way to curb it was to demand payment from users, or else threaten cuts in their supply.

Rich and poor alike

Accurate water meters started to be installed on every connection. In half a year, the bill collection ratio was raised to 99 percent—the highest known for a water utility across the region, the ADB noted.

Nonrevenue water was reduced to 16 percent, the lowest ever in Southeast Asia, where such losses averaged 25 percent.

Ek himself would conduct door-to-door campaigns in urban and rural areas of the capital, meeting rich and poor alike, to convince them of the need for increases in their water bill. Raising tariffs was the only way to pay back the huge foreign loans.

He explained that the costs to the consumers would turn out less than what they would pay to illegal water vendors.

Ek shows the way

Besides that, they would be spared the hassle of queuing up for water and be getting it straight from the tap.

Amid a trend in Southeast Asia toward privatizing government-run utilities [including the Philippines], Ek proudly declares that none of the processes in running the capital's water system are contracted out.

Water treatment, pipe-laying, house connections, meter-reading, billing and collection are all performed by the PPWSA.

Irony of three rivers

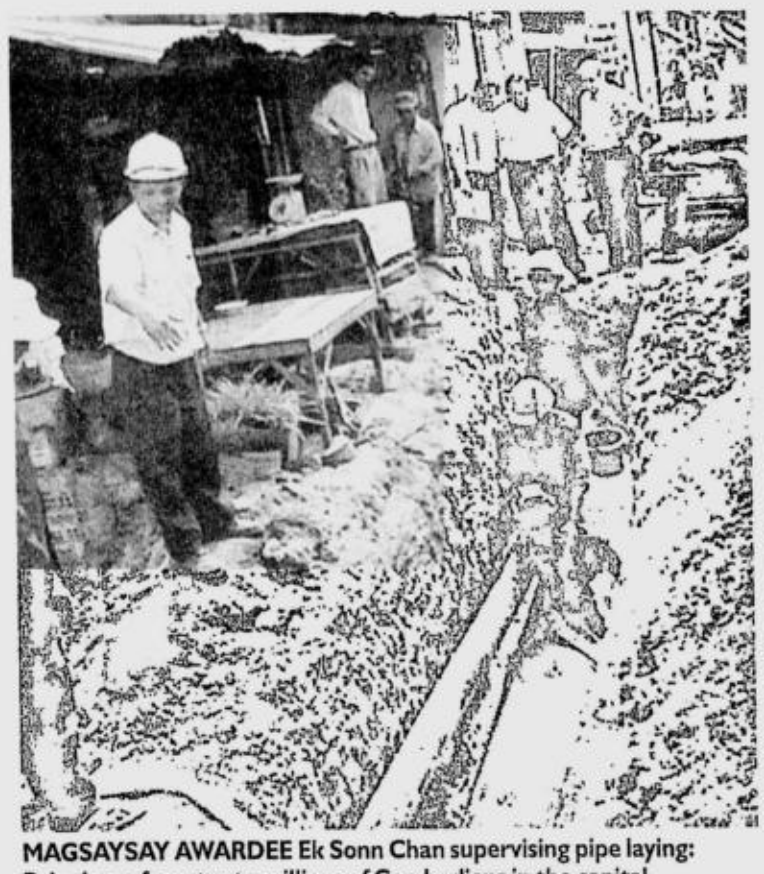
"It's a matter of process, leadership and policy," Ek says. "No need for private sector participation."

The utility can now even afford to decline foreign investment offers, allowing the quality of the PPWSA's service to be independent of profit-oriented goals, Ek says.

The irony of Phnom Penh's lying at the confluence of three rivers and yet being unable to provide its citizens with potable water has been abridged.

Ek Sonn Chan has restored not only the capital's water system to an efficient and hygienic state for a growing population but also restored the Cambodian citizens' trust in government service.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award is honoring a man who survived Cambodia's killing fields with the award for Government Service for "his exemplary rehabilitation of a ruined public utility, bringing safe drinking water to a million people in Cambodia's capital city."



MAGSAYSAY AWARDEE Ek Sonn Chan supervising pipe laying: Bringing safe water to millions of Cambodians in the capital.

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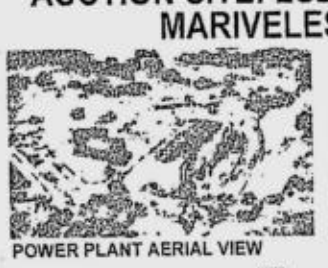
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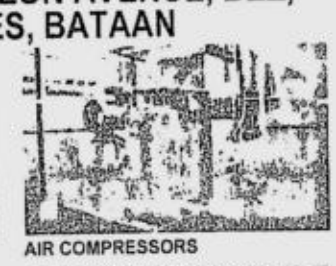
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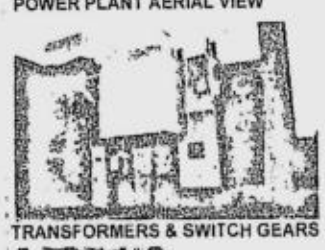
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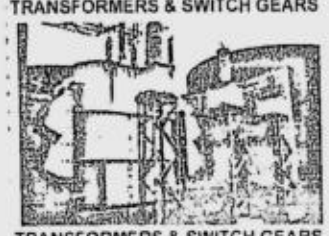
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Gokongwei gives away ₱10.25B to education

From page A1

Summit Holdings—equivalent to 25 percent of the listed conglomerate, or about P10.25 billion—to charity.

"Life has been good to me," Gokongwei told over 1,000 business associates and friends who packed the Gokongwei-owned Crowne Plaza hotel in Ortigas. "I want to give back the blessings that I have received."

Gokongwei and his wife, Elizabeth, control half of JG Summit, which had a market capitalization of P41.46 billion as of Friday.

The taipan's conjugal half would accrete to the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation, which already owns 16.61 percent of JG Summit.

Gokongwei said the considerable paperwork for the transfer would take at least two weeks.

Foundation biggest shareholder

Once completed, the transfer would make the Gokongwei foundation, at 41.6 percent, the biggest shareholder of the food, airline, telephone and real estate conglomerate.

In peso terms, the additional transfer effectively places over P17 billion of the wealth of Gokongwei, who can be said to be the local Warren Buffett, for disposal to his favorite beneficiaries, mainly schools.

The newest beneficiary, which will get P50 million, will be the University of San Carlos in Cebu, where Gokongwei put himself through high school during the war years while buying and selling goods on his bicycle.

That rusty bike sowed the seeds that blossomed into an Asian business empire that is also celebrating its 50th year.

GOKONGWEI: 'Life has been good to me.'

Saying he had already exceeded by 10 years the average life span of Filipinos, Mr. John announced that he wants to devote more time to "philanthropy, reading and traveling."

In the last five years, the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation has released over P400 million to various schools, chiefly to De La Salle University, where Gokongwei acquired an MBA degree, and Ateneo de Manila University.

Gokongwei currently chairs the foundation, but the taipan said he would eventually relinquish management to professionals. Its trustees include accounting guru Washington Sycip and retired Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel C. Singson.

To keep the multibillion endowment intact, the foundation relies on the cash dividends generated by JG Summit for its operations.

Thanking neighbors, professors

At the birthday celebration, Gokongwei also thanked his Cebu neighbors, Mario Mendozona and Ramero Valenzuela, who kept an eye on his orphaned family during the difficult war years, as well as his MBA professors in La Salle—Cesar Virata, Vicente Paterno and the late Edgardo Tordesillas—and early business partners Ignacio Gotao and Dr. Pacifico Yap for his success.

"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a little better; whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is the meaning of success," Gokongwei said, quoting Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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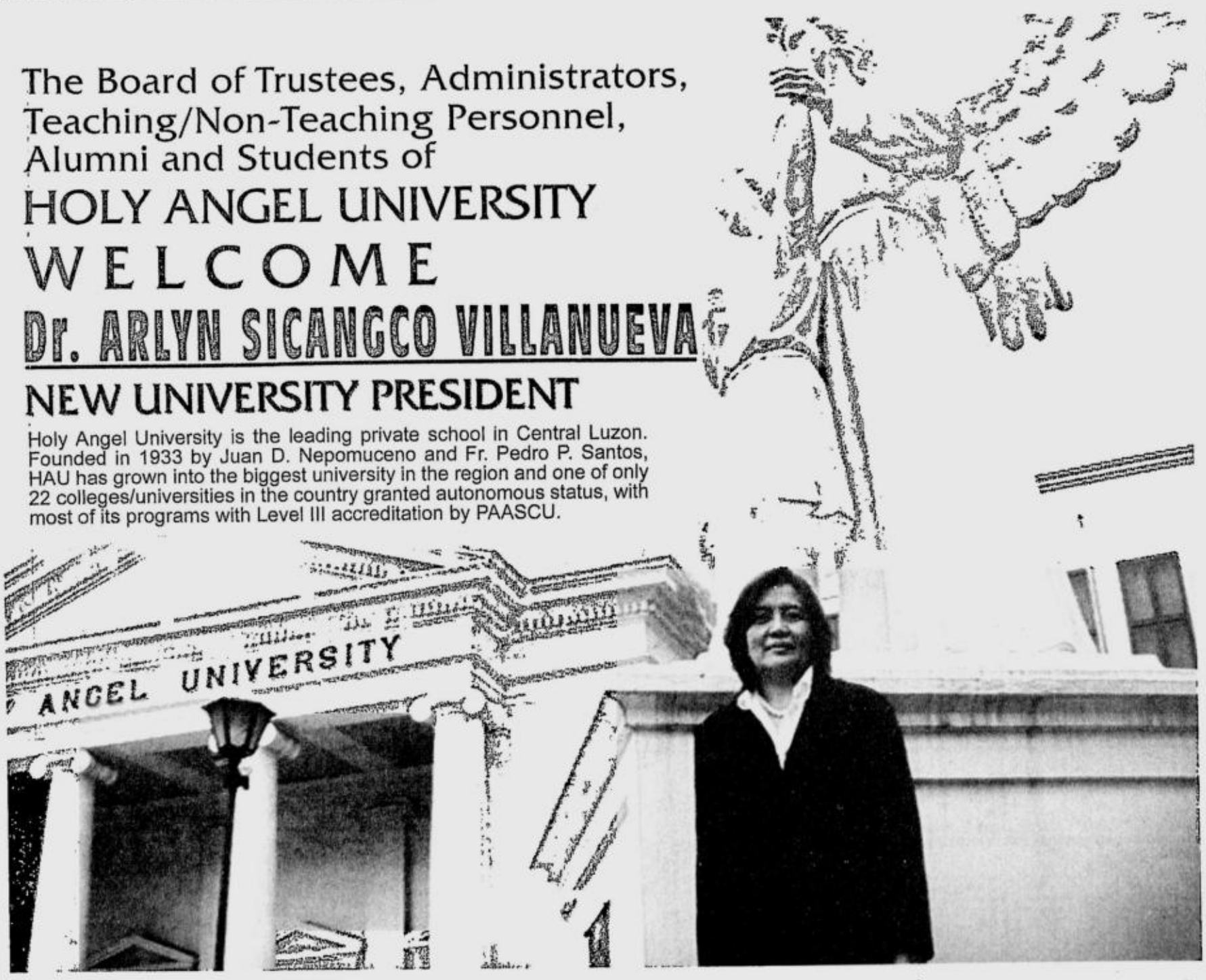

Sisters act...

From page A1

specified a monthly salary of $200 a month but they were each paid only $150, Joann told the INQUIRER.

Also, she said, they had no days off, and were not able to see each other regularly. But they managed to keep in touch through their mobile phones.

When the war broke out, Joann's employer reluctantly gave her permission to leave.

But Jasmine's employer refused to let her go, and took her and her two fellow household help, both Sri Lankan, to a mountain resort.

Last week, Jasmine and her companions agreed to make their escape.

She contacted Joann, apprised her of the plan, and told her to wait at the foot of the mountain.

Dramatic meeting

On the appointed day, while her employer's family was enjoying the lunch that she had prepared, Jasmine and the two Sri Lankans slipped out of the house.

They walked down the mountain for six hours.

Joann had earlier left her employer's house, and waited for her sister near the foot of the mountain for eight hours.

Their meeting was nothing short of dramatic. "Yes, we hugged and cried. *Ma*-drama!" Jasmine recalled, laughing.

The sisters then fled to the relocation center with only one carry-on bag between them.

They were unable to bring anything apart from a few pieces of clothing.

Tearful reunion

At the airport, the sisters wept as soon as they saw their mother, Marlie, and other welcomers.

Joann scooped up her 4-year-old daughter, Lara, in her arms and peppered the child with kisses.

"I'm sorry we don't have any money with us," Jasmine told her equally tearful mother.

"That's okay," Marlie said, patting Jasmine's hand. "I just want my daughters home alive."

Don't self-destruct, pro-impeachment House bloc told

By Norman Bordadora

THE MINORITY IN THE HOUSE MUST HAVE signed the death sentence of its own impeachment bid against President Macapagal-Arroyo when it sought the inhibition of congressmen linked to the P728-million fertilizer scam, a law dean said on Friday.

Lawyer Amado Valdez, dean of the University of the East College of Law, said the move to inhibit the congressmen included in the list of alleged beneficiaries of the alleged farm input scam may have alienated congressmen in the majority who may still support the impeach move until opposition's motion to inhibit.

"The pro-impeachment group would self-destruct should it opt for tactical moves like this inhibition issue that will only succeed in alienating their peers who might otherwise sign up for the impeachment rap or later vote for it at the committee or plenary levels," Valdez said.

The legal expert said it would not have helped the minority bloc's cause even if they succeed in barring a number of committee members from taking part in the proceedings "because even if they eventually abstain from voting on the complaint, such an abstention will not count as a vote for impeachment."

"They need all the signatories they can get to hit the magic number of 78. But they are actually heading for the opposite direction in trying to arm-twist their peers linked to the so-called fertilizer scam to accept culpability by inhibiting themselves from the impeachment proceeding," he added.

The opposition wanted congressmen linked to the fertilizer fund scam to inhibit because the fund mess was one of the cases included in the impeachment complaint against the President.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, August 13, 2006
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Food for the journey

Elijah disappeared into the desert going on a day's journey. Then he sat down under a broom tree and prayed to die, "That is enough, Yahweh, take away my life for I am dying."

He lay down and went to sleep under the broom tree. Then an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." Elijah looked and saw, at his head, a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and went back to sleep. The angel of Yahweh came a second time to him, saying, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too long for you." He got up, ate and drank, and on the strength of that food, he traveled for 40 days and 40 nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Follow the way of love

Do not sadden the Holy Spirit of God which you were marked with. It will be your distinctive mark on the day of salvation. Do away with all quarreling, rage, anger, insults and every kind of malice: be good and understanding, mutually forgiving one another as God forgave you in Christ.

As most beloved children of God, strive to imitate him. Follow the way of love, the example of Christ who loved you. He gave himself up for us and became the offering and sacrificial victim whose fragrance rises to God.

Gospel: John 6:41-51

Living bread

The Jews murmured because Jesus had said, "I am the bread which comes from heaven." And they said, "This man is the son of Joseph, isn't he? We know his father and mother. How can he say that he has come from heaven?"

Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise him up on the last day. It has been written in the Prophets: They shall all be taught by God. So whoever listens and learns from the Father comes to me.

"For no one has seen the Father except the One who comes from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

"I am the bread of life. Though your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, they died. But here you have the bread which comes from heaven so that you may eat of it and not die.

"I am the living bread which has come from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

Commentary

Elijah is disheartened and wants to die, but an angel comes to him and feeds him again and again so that he can make his journey to Horeb, the mountain of God. Today we are told to be sure to do nothing to sadden the Spirit and rid ourselves of bitterness, anger, harsh words, slander and malice, and imitate God in loving each other. Jesus feeds us the bread of life that sustains us daily, that is the bread of justice, of hope and freedom, to be shared around with all. We are fed food that enables us to live forever and to live even now as those taught by God (Scripture) and with Jesus' own life (Eucharist). We do not dare despair or grow weary. We are sustained.

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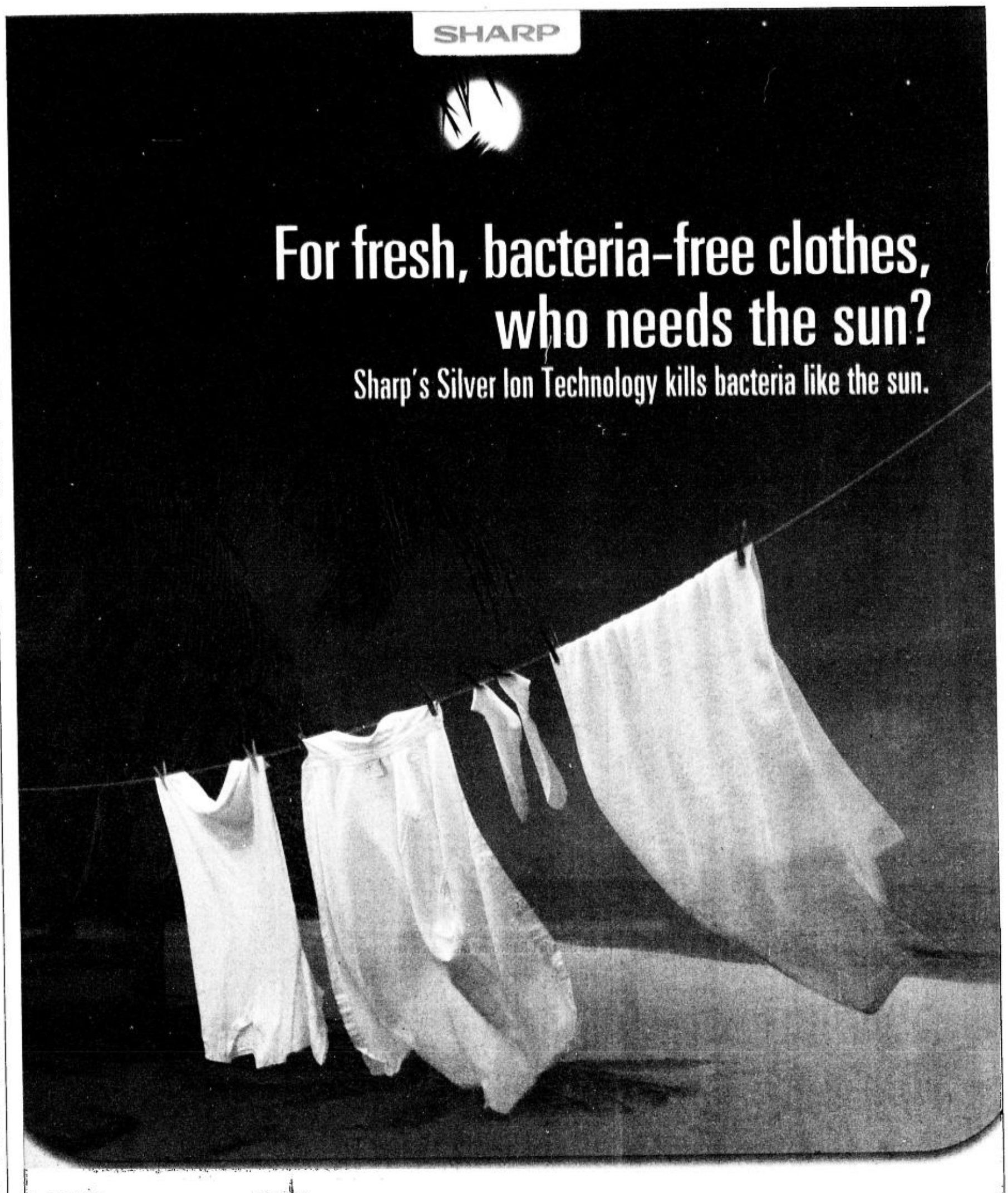

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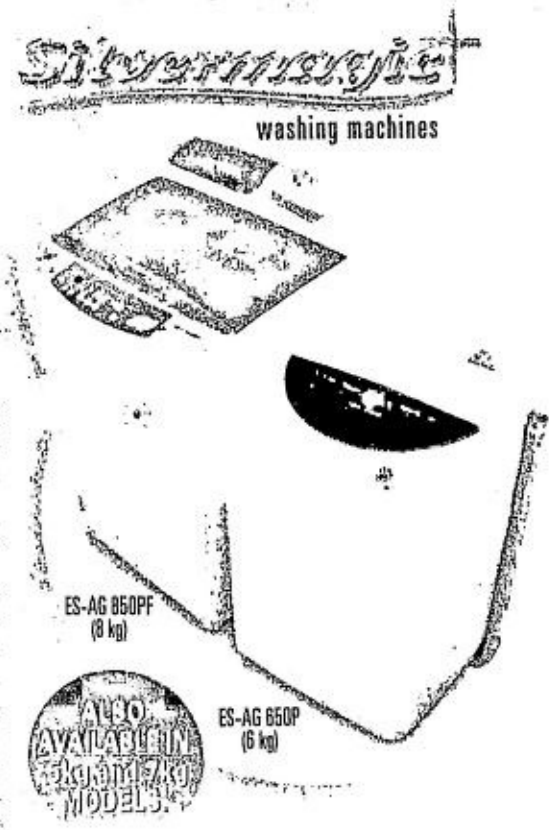

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In a bacteria-growth test comparing a normally rinsed fabric and a silver ion coated fabric, after 18 hours of storage at 37°C, results showed that the Silver Ion coating was more efficient in reducing the growth of odor-causing bacteria.

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The silver ions help prevent damp odors, keeping half-dried and even indoor-dried clothes smelling fresh. The ion generator can be set to get rid of stubborn bacteria which cling on odor prone laundry such as socks, sportswear, bed sheets and blankets.

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The Sharp Silvermagic Washing Machine's anti-microbial power has been certified by the Kyoto Microorganism Lab's Test for Antibacterial Activity and Efficacy on Textile Products.

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Quezon City
Office of the Treasurer

Serbisyong Bayan SB Lungsod Quezon

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY

By virtue of the provisions of Section 260 & 263 of RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the undersigned will sell at public auction on August 25, 2006 at the main entrance Taxpayer's Lounge Quezon City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, the real property herein below specified which are hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real property taxes, penalties, cost due thereon as of the date.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Lungsod Quezon
Tanggapan ng Ingat-Yaman

Serbisyong Bayan SB Lungsod Quezon

Patalastas Tungkol sa Pagsusubasta sa Ari-ariang di natitinag na Amoroso sa Buwis

Alinsunod sa tinatadhana ng Section 260 & 263 ng RA 7160, o ang tinatawag na Local Government Code of 1991, ang nakalagda sa ibaba ay magsusubasta sa publiko sa Agosto 25, 2006, sa ganap na ika-10:00 ng umaga sa Taxpayer's Lounge, Quezon City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City ng mga ari-ariang binabanggit sa ibaba na napatunayan na hindi bayad upang nabayaran ang amorosong buwis, multa at halagang pagsusubasta.

No.	Property Index #	Lot	Block	Area	Barangay	Kind	Cls	Tax Dec #	Declared Owner (Address)	Years	Amount	TCT No./Date
*	01-00037-020-1-015	3	154		DON MANUEL	IMP	RES	D-030-01466	LYC REALTY & DEV CORP 997 KAMAGONG ST MAKATI CITY	1992-2006(1-2)	164 418 40	
2	01-01117-020-1-001	15	19		DONA AURORA	IMP.	COM	D-031-00029	FIRST MEGABLOCK PROPERTIES DEV INC. - 89 LIM-AN ST. PASAY CITY	1997-2005	40 908 31	
3	02-00360-1001-001	1			Santol	Imp	Com	D-104-01907	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	150 223 63	*2268 / 4/28/1999
4	02-00369-1001-002	1			Santol	Imp	Com	D-104-01908	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2005(1-2) 2006(1)	146 470 72	*2269 / 4/28/1999
5	02-00369-1001-005	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01911	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	23 882 67	17483 / 4/28/1999
6	02-00369-1001-006	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01912	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000(c) 2005(1)	5,072 07	17484 / 4/28/1999
*	02-00369-1001-007	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01913	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	11 221 70	17485 / 4/28/1999
8	02-00369-1001-008	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01914	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	16 264 14	17486 / 4/28/1999
9	02-00369-1001-009	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01915	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	24 513 68	17487 / 4/28/1999
*0	02-00369-1001-010	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01916	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	25 360 93	17488 / 4/28/1999
*1	02-00369-1001-011	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01917	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	23 882 67	17489 / 4/28/1999
*2	02-00369-1001-013	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01918	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	11 221 70	17491 / 4/28/1999
*3	02-00369-1001-014	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01920	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	1999(4) 2006(1-2)	10 632 44	17492 / 5/13/1997
*4	02-00369-1001-015	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01921	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	1999(4) 2006(1-2)	27 037 66	17493 / 5/13/1997
*5	02-00369-1001-016	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01922	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	25 360 93	17494 / 4/28/1999
6	02-00369-1001-017	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01923	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	119 262 59	*2276 / 4/28/1999
*7	02-00369-1001-018	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01924	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	106 062 29	*2277 / 4/28/1999
18	02-00369-1001-019	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01925	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	28 463 83	17497 / 4/28/1999
19	02-00369-1001-020	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01926	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	6,286.80	17498 / 4/28/1999
20	02-00369-1001-021	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01927	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	13 374 24	17499 / 5/13/1997
21	02-00369-1001-022	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01928	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	16 264 14	17500 / 5/13/1997
22	02-00369-1001-023	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01929	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	29 215 68	17501 / 5/13/1997
23	02-00369-1001-024	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01930	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	30 225 05	17502 / 5/13/1997
24	02-00369-1001-025	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01931	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	270 835 18	12280 / 7/24/1996
25	02-00369-1001-026	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01932	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	1999-2006(1)	924 644 00	*2280 / 4/28/1999
26	02-00512	8	589-PCS-4732	750.00	Doña Imelda	Lot	Res	E-032-00439	Now San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	1997(3-4) 2006(1)	66 982 50	97544 / 11/4/1993
27	02-00512-000-1-004-020	8	569		DOÑA IMELDA	IMP.	RES	D-032-01035	TABALAN, MARCIAL B M/TO ROSA - 31 GUIRAYAN ST. DONA IMELDA QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	4 501 10	
28	02-01513-1001-005	4-B-11-V-1-A	PSD-00-03544		Doña Imelda	Imp	Res	D-032-03256	New San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	1996-2006(1)	421 523 20	
29	02-01514-1001-018	4-B-11-V-1-B	PSD-00-35444		Doña Imelda	Imp	Res	D-032-02902	New San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	2000(3-4) 06(1-2)	18 918 96	8912
30	02-01517-1001-006	4-B-11-V-1-E	PSD-00-035444		Doña Imelda	Imp	Res	D-032-01205	New San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	1997-2006(1)	380 251 04	12268 / 4/28/10
31	03-00319-000-1-002	11	45		LOURDES	IMP	RES.	D-055-02829	LAO, WILLIAM C - APO ST LA LOMA QC	2001-2006(1)	678 965 87	
32	03-00710	25	233	897	DOÑA JOSEFA	LOT	COM.	E-033-00006	IGNACIO, TERESA R-42 BROADWAY ST. QUEZON CITY	1996(3-4) 2006(1)	747,777 81	87271 / (1/5/1965)
33	03-02307	17	523 PSD-57920	1020	TATALON	LOT	COM.	E-123-00119	VILLANUEVA, REGINO M/TO LIBRADA - 980 COMMONWEALTH AVE. CAPITOL DIST. Q.C.	1995(2-4) 2006(1-2)	877,260 00	115882 / (8/10/1984)
34	03-02308	18	523	971.3	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-00129	ONG, BENJAMIN ET AL1851 MARIA OROSA ST MALATE MANILA	1961-2006(1)	140 615 70	26338
35	03-02534	24	533	1000	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01987	JM TUAZON CO. INC -C/O GACI 5TH FLR. BOIE BLDG. ESCOLTA MANILA	1985-2006(1-2)	144,056 25	
36	03-02564	3	536-PCS-3824		Tatalon	Lot	Com	E-123-02510	Evangelista Rodolfo & Maeva-2201 G. Tuazon St., Sampaloc, Mla	2000(2-4) 2006(1-2)	247 095 00	16550 / 1/1990
37	03-02648	16	539	815.2	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-02517	JM TUAZON CO. INC - C/O GACI 5TH FLR. BOIE BLDG. ESCOLTA MANILA	1993-2006(1)	110,605 31	
38	03-02826	10	1 BCS-04-000015	54	TATALON	LOT	RES	D-123-01096	ROQUE, RODOLFO (NHA) - ALLEY 4 TATALON QC	1983-2006(1)	6,381 18	264092
39	03-02828	12	1	58.5	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01098	JOVEN, ROSIPIO - ALLEY 4 TATALON ESTATE QC	1983-2006(1)	6,714 24	263962
40	03-02843	27	1 BCS-04-000015	56	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01113	BAVIZ, DOMINGO G (NHA) - ALLEY 8 TATALON QC	1996-2006(1)	4,174 32	261538
41	03-02855	39	1 BCS-04-000015	54	TATALON	LOT	RES	E-123-01125	ALIZA, GILDA (NHA) - ALLEY 13 TATALON ESTATE QC	1983-2006(1)	6,381 18	264019
42	03-02858	42	1 BCS-04-000016	48	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01128	BAUTISTA, JOHNNY (NHA) - ALLEY 11 TATALON EST. QC	1992-2005	4,671 32	264003
43	03-02864	48	1	52.8	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01135	MALAZUERTE, VITO (NHA) - ALLEY 16 TATALON QC	1983-2006(1)	6,238 62	264089
44	03-02882	2	5	51	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01027	MIGOTO, PARIDA ALLEY 2 TATALON QC	1983-2006(1)	7,405 20	264083
45	03-04127 / A	10	6-BCS-04-000055	64.8	TATALON	L / I	RES	E-123-03072/D-123-00273	NHA (LONTOC, ESTHER)-31 VICTORY AVE TATALON QUEZON CITY	1996-2005(1-2) 1986-2006(1-2	107,198 88	
46	03-05067	6	5 BCS-04-000033	52.8	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-02110	DELARA, MILAGROS N & JUANITO SUBRE (NHA) - ALLEY 3 TATALON QUEZON CITY	1994-2006(1)	4,684 62	276127
47	03-06038	12	9-BCS-04-000033	78.1	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-02249	BETETREZ, FRANCHE ET AL (NHA) - L12 B9 ALLEY 16 TATALON QUEZON CITY	1974-2006(1)	10 661 43	
48	03-07285	47	9-PSD-04-004371	53	TATALON	IMP.	COM.	D-123-07081	DE LAS ALAS, PERLA-32-D BANAHAW ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	9,767 52	171839 / 1/1/1995
49	03-07372-000-1-001	37	11		SAN ISIDRO	IMP.	RES.	D-059-01928	PALACIO, JOSE DANTE-L37 B11 ST MARY ST. VILLA ESPANA SUBD. QC	2000-2006(1)	574,016 23	
50	04-00073-000-1-002	14	72		SALVACION	IMP.	RES	D-059-02631	CHAN, PHILIP-MAYON ST. QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1-2)	585,234 56	
51	04-01117-000-1-004	21	80		N.S. Amoranto	. / I	Res	E-042-00423/D-042-00878	FREAL REALTY & DEV. CORP 57-C P FLORENTINO ST STA MSA HGTS QC	2001-2006(1)	694 635 82	
52	05-00180 / A	6	143		St. Peter	L / I	Res	E-112-00575/D-112-01220/D-112-01227	Mario De Guzman 6 Sol Alcaraz St., QC	1999-2006(1) 1999-2006(1)	38 126 72	284800 * 198
53	05-00741 / A / B	9	305	264.00	ST. PETER	IMP	RES.	D-112-01810	Quiray Feliciano & Olivia - 18 Sibuyan St., San Jose, QC	2003-2006(1) 1997-2006(1) 1993-2005(1)	23 452 23	21107
54	05-00856-000-1-002	15	311		San Jose	Imp	Res	D-100-01884	BACAUR, PATERNO 12 MATUTUM ST QC	1995-2006(1 2	44,737 40	
55	05-01687-000-1-003	37-B	359		MANRESA	MACH.	COM	D-060-03871	Ramirez, Amelia M. - 2 Mauban cor. Kabuluan St QC	1999-2006(1-2	275 226 80	
56	05-02568-000-2-002	3	399		MANRESA	MACH	COM	D-060-03055/D-060-04953	SOCIAL MFG. - 40 LATUKAN ST MANRESA QC	1988-2006(1-2	6,448 859 49	
57	05-05181-000-2-001/ 05-05181-000-2-002	11-A	423-PSD-13-004796						NORTH POINT INTERNATIONAL VENTURES CORP	1997-2006(1) 1997-2005(1)	505,589 06	
58	06-00794-000-1-002	11	52		Pallak	Imp	Com	D-077-04740	180 SGT. RIVERA COR. G. ARANETA AVE Q.C			
59	06-00567	6	55	344	PALTOK	LOT	RES	E-077-01463	Kawamoto Fine Furniture Inc - 1044 Del Monte Ave. QC	2002-2006(1-2	1,503 967 45	
60	06-00831	5	61	302	DEL MONTE	LOT	REG.	E-028-00588	LOIS, AMANDA T ET AL-830 ASUNCION TONDO MANILA	1992-2006(1-2)	116,263 88	238558 / (9/26/1977)
61	06-01147-021-2-001	21-B	55		SAN ANTONIO	MACH	IND.	D-086-04319	FERNANDEZ, MA. LOURDES 54 OSMENA ST SFDM QUEZON CITY	1997-2006(1)	29 987 69	353665 / 11/4/1987
62	06-01933-000-2-001	5	102		Pallok	Imp	Ind	D-077-04170	NEW AJAX ALUMINUM INDUST INC 292 ROOSEVELT AVE SFM QUEZON CITY	1990-2006(1-2)	861,158 22	
63	06-05937-000-1-001	1	W-10		Pallok	Imp	Com	D-077-01273	Prestige Textile Mills Inc 16 Zena St., SFDM, QC	2000-2006(1)	460 736 25	
64	06-06868-000-1-002	11-D	PSD-13-007619		SAN ANTONIO	IMP	COM	D-096-04079	Pito Restaurant 61 West Ave. QC	1999-2006(1-2	1,413 782 84	
65	06-07276-000-1-001	10-A-1/10-A-2/10-A-3			Pallok	Imp	Com	D-077-04003	CAPITOL DEV. BANK PEARL DR. ORTIGAS CTR PASIG	2001-2006(1)	390 622 06	
66	07-00450-000-2-002	3	LCH-22		Roxas	Mach	Com	D-091-03239	Nova Furniture-Del Monte Ave cor. Judge J. Luna St. SFDM QC	1999-2006(1)	4,316 706 28	
67	07-00803 / A	31	LCH-33		Roxas	L / I	Res	E-091-00711/D-091-01955	Tomdao, Miguel Luis U -86 Sct. Chuatoco St., Roxas Dist. QC	1998-2006(1-2	448 473 60	
68	07-00946 / A	19	LCH-40	200.00	Roxas	L / I	Res/ Ind	E-091-00791/D-091-03083	Alejo, Romeo P 39 Sct. Reyes St., Roxas, QC	2000-2006(1) 1992-2006(1	40 516 56	
69	07-01155-000-1-002	17	S-31		LAGING HANDA	IMP.	COM.	D-053-04019	Valerio, Fernando m/to Norma-5 Zinnia St. Roxas Dist. QC	1998(3-4) 2006(1) 1987(r) 2006(1)	1,499 838 50	369468 /
70	07-01330-000-1-003	9	70		SAN ANTONIO	IMP	RES	D-095-04359	AVENA, RENATO M. - 35 SCT LIMBAGA ST L. HANDA QC	1998-2006(1)	1 258 416 93	
71	07-01534	1-A	S-99	236	PALIGSAHAN	LOT	RES.	E-070-00432	RAMIREZ, REYNALDO ET AL-WEST RIVERSIDE ST QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	208,843 48	
72	07-01677-000-2-030	WHOLE	S-105		OBRERO	MACH	IND.	D-072-00557	VILLAREAL, CARLOS ET AL-32 CEBU AVE. DILIMAN QUEZON CITY	2000(3-4) 2006(1)	18,510 46	31864
73	07-01793-000-1-004	10	S-136		Paligsahan	Imp	Com	D-076-01601	LIBERTAD MANAGEMENT CORP.-54-A DON ROCES AVE. QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	24 698 40	
74	07-01836 / A	10	S-138	1884.6	PALIGSAHAN	L / I	COM.	E-076-00111 / D-076-01991	Phil Seven Prop. Corp. - Roces Ave cor. Quezon Ave QC	2000-2006(1-2)	427 621 74	
75	07-01895 / A	4	4	717.5	Nayong Kanluran	L / I	RES.	E-070-00035 / D-070-01030	ISIP ALEGRIA M-378 QUEZON BLVD QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1-2) 2001-2006(1-2)	1,226 741 35	
76	07-02020-000-1-001-020	3-A	PSD-44057-W-6		Nayong Kanluran	IMP.	RES.	D-070-00567	BALTAZAR, DANTE C. ET AL-15 VIOLETA ST. ROXAS DIST. QUEZON CITY	1999-2005(1) 1992-2006(1)	64,803 87	356573 / (3/18/1987)
77	07-02020-000-1-001-029	3-A	PSD-44057		Nayong Kanluran	IMP.	RES	D-070-00568	SARJ CONST. & DEV. CORP.-2041 A. LUNA CONDO F HUERTAS STA. CRUZ MLA	1997-2006	5,157 07	
78	07-02020-000-1-001-030	3-A	W-6 PSD-44057		Nayong Kanluran	IMP	RES	D-070-00566	SARJ CONST. & DEV. CORP.-2041 A. LUNA CONDO F HUERTAS STA. CRUZ MLA	1997-2006	5,157 07	
79	07-02020-000-1-001-031	3-A	W-6 PSD-44047		Nayong Kanluran	IMP	RES	D-070-00569	SARJ CONST. & DEV. CORP.-2041 A. LUNA CONDO F HUERTAS STA. CRUZ MLA	1997-2006	5,328 67	
80	07-02028-000-1-001	11	W-6		Nayong Kanluran	IMP.	RES	D-070-00788	CARONAN, JUSTO CESAR JR - SOLANA CAGAYAN	1999-2006(1)	120 456 90	
81	07-03234-000-1-001	5-B	LRC-PSD-315833		PALIGSAHAN	IMP	COM	D-076-01267	MAXIMA EQUIPMENT CO INC - 202 E RODRIGUEZ AVE QC	2003-2006(1)	256,000 74	
82	07-03961-000-1-001-174	1 & 2	PCS-007404-004575-D		PALIGSAHAN	IMP.	RES.	D-076-02207	FIRST TAIPAN GROUP DEV.CORP. - PHIL. STOCK EXCHANGE CTR. WEST TOWER PASIG	1999-2006(1)	4,462 50	
83	07-03758 / A	7-A	PSD-007404	375	PALIGSAHAN	L / I	COM	E-076-00053 / D-073-01457	ORILLAZA, JOSE B & DOLORES M 12 KAPAYAPAAN ST. KAMUNING VILL. PASIG CITY	2001-2006(1) 1997-2006(1)	1 054 031 59	129523 / (4/20/1995)
84	08-03726-000-1-001	23-D	PSD-00-035250		LAGING HANDA	IMP	RES	D-053-01845	LAZATIN, BENEDICT M/TO MA. ZENAIDA MONTES	1997-2006(1)	58,345 17	
85	09-00205	4	E-15	610	UP Village	LOT	RES.	E-123-00062	-55 TIMES CR DALISAY ST West Triangle QC			
86	09-00929 / A	1	E-54		Teachers Village East	L / I	Com	E-124-02374 / D-124-00939	DIPASUPIL, PETRONILA M.-62 ST. MARY ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1-2)	67 503 70	16505 / 10/1967
87	09-00988 / A	4	E-57	614.80	Teachers Village West	L / I	Res	D-125-00229 / D-125-01205	International Communications Corp-234 Roosevelt Ave., SFDM, QC	99(3-4) 2006(1-2) 98(3-4) 2006(1-2)	22,076,046 25	
88	09-01974 / A	14	E-105	540	CENTRAL	L / I	RES.	E-021-00055 / D-021-01843	Araza, Edgardo 13 Sct. Fuentebella St. QC	2000(3-4) 2006(1) 2000(3-4) 2006(1	49 920 31	127447 / 2/4/1985
89	09-02866-000-1-001	6	W-29		Pinahan	Imp	Com/Res	D-084-03304	MANANSALA, MELENCIO-S CASTILLAS ST. NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1999-2005(1) 2000-2006(1)	956 683 48	286745 / (5/14/1982)
90	09-04000-5-1-8-011	2-F			Central	Imp	Res	D-021-02678	Ocio Cruz, Kelly N 21 Kamias Road, QC	1999-2006(1)	413 070 16	
91	09-00837-000-1-001	18-A TO H	LRA-PSD-30720		PINAHAN	IMP.	COM	D-084-03370	Tempus Place Realty Mgt. Corp-Tempus Place Bldg. Timoteo St. QC	1995-2006(1-2)	560 159 68	
92	10-00140-000-1-003	60	203		QUIRINO 2-A	IMP	COM	D-086-01745	RICAFORTE, RAMON (WANG-NANG) - 23 V LUNA RD. PINAHAN QUEZON CITY	1998-2006(1-2)	347 852 42	
93	10-02630 / B	54	LCH-451	172.7	MARILAG	. / I	REG	E-053-03744 / D-053-03283	PHIL. SEVEN CORP. 3/F STATE FINANCE CENTER ORTIGAS MANDALUYONG	1998-2006(1)	345,931 88	
94	10-02798 / A / B	16	LCH-457	240.60	Marilag	L / I	Res	E-053-01111 / D-053-03222 / D-053-01113	TORRES, EFREN M. & ARNULFA L-4-B 20TH AVE. MURPHY QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1) 2000-2006(1)	116,873 56	128322 / (4/30/1985)
95	10-04537-000-2-001	7	IN-1		TAGUMPAY	MACH.	COM	D-119-00181	Ambas, Valentina C. - 14-F Cubao St., Proj. 4, QC	1999-2006(1-2) 1999-2006(1-2) 1995-2006(1-2)	131 850 84	89748 / 2/22/1985
96	10-04583-000-1-001	2	LRC PCS-14312		BLUE RIDGE A	IMP.	COM	D-135-01648	PERMANENT LIGHT MFG. ENT.-7 21ST AVE. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	204,473 28	
97	11-00361-000-1-001	4	712		Veterans Village	IMP	COM	D-132-02060	RODRIGUEZ, ANTONIO-SKYLINE DRIVE BLUE RIDGE QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	194,111 44	
98	11-03491	4	ph-20	611.20	Bagong Pag-asa	Lot	Res	E-037-00131	UMALI, DONCHITA - 82 DANGAY ST. PROJ. 7 QC	2001-2006(1)	63,108 98	
99	11-06071-000-2-070	*	LRC-PSD-104291		Sto. Cristo	Mach	Com	D-117-01958	Del Mundo, Evelyn 54 Rd 13 Pag-asa, QC	1998-2006(1)	33 926 16	100872 1998
100	11-06152	*	PSD-06-008245	400.7	BUNGAD	LOT	RES	E-016-00871	PNB PNB Bldg. Escolta, Mla	1993-2006(1 -	297 872 64	
101	11-06215 / A	10	PSD-04-00896	240	R MAGSAYSAY	. / I.	RES.	E-050-00337 / D-050-01004	PUNO, CARLITO S & MAGDALENA-231 ALLEY 1 PROJ. 6 QUEZON CITY	1993-2006(1)	46,021 50	258761 / (10/18/1982)
102	11-06267	36-B	PSD-306759	110	R MAGSAYSAY	LOT	RES	E-050-00239	DE CASTEN, LYDIA & ANTONIO JR-74 BUKIDNON B BANTAY QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1 2001-2006(1	58,140 00	275054 / (10/18/1982)
103	11-06280-000-1-001	13-C	PSD-13-000881		PROJECT 6	IMP	RES	D-097-03756	MADLANGAWA, FELIPE J -1215 TAUBUNTING ST. STA CRUZ MANILA	1998-2006(1)	6,816 16	262065 / (10/18/1982)
104	11-06328 / A	21-J	PSD-13-000865	65	Veterans Village	. / I.	RES.	E-132-00350 / D-132-02500	DELA VEGA, MARLON B - 18-C ROAD 1 PAGASA QC	1995-2006(1)	22,112 76	
105	12-00751-001	38-B	24 PCS-817	393	SILANGAN	LOT	COM	E-108-02436	ABLE DEV. CORP.-11 GUIRAYAN ST. ARANETA SUBD. QUEZON CITY	1998-2006(1) 1995-2006(1	55,003 76	318345 / (2/2/1984)
106	12-00758-001-1-001	1 & 2	PCS-14302		SILANGAN	IMP	COM	D-108-01503	TY, ANITA N-1401 SAN MARCELINO ST. ERMITA MANILA	1996-2006(1-2	83 589 17	375343 / (2/1/1988)
107	12-02837	*	12 PCS-389	1012	MARIANA	LOT	COM	E-051-00018	FLORESCA, Esp * *6 ALBAY ST CUBAO QC	1988-2006(1)	81 621 98	
108	12-03475-000-1-002	*	6		CONCEPCION	IMP.	COM	D-045-01973	GARCIA, JUSTA-ESPANA EXT. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1-	1 124 109 36	
109	12-03588 / A	4	13-PSD-22247	303	PINAGKAISAHAN	. / I	RES	E-063-00347 / D-063-00915	KRAFFT PROPERTIES INC. MANHATTAN ST. QC	1998-2006(1)	1,032 957 68	
110	12-05514-000-1-001-103	3-B	PSD-50353		KAUNLARAN	IMP.	RES	D-050-02808	AGCAOL, JOSE & JOCELYN-71 E. GARCIA ST. QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1-2) 1993-2006(1-2	1 784 845 48	30478r
111	12-05514-000-1-001-104	3-B	PSD-50353		KAUNLARAN	IMP.	RES.	D-050-02809	VILLASI MAGDALENA T. ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1)	2 254 415 72	2921 / (8/3/19
112	12-05514-000-1-001-105	3-B	PSD-50353		KAUNLARAN	IMP	COM	D-050-02810	VILLASI MAGDALENA T. ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1)	1 311 325 27	
113	12-05514-000-1-012	3-B	PSD-50353		KAUNLARAN	IMP	COM.	D-050-01921	VILLASI MAGDALENA T. ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1)	2 620 779 84	
114	12-05574-000-1-001-010	3-B	PSD-50353		KAUNLARAN	IMP.	COM	D-050-01945	VILLASI MAGDALENA T. ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1993-2006(1)	132 480 05	2882 / (8/3/1984)
115	12-08906-000-1-001	1-O	PSD-00-035714		SL ng Crisnu	IMP.	RES	D-008-02737	FILINVEST LAND INC -FDC BLDG. 173 P. GOMEZ ST. SAN JUAN M.M.	1993-2006(1)	836 354 30	2880 / (8/3/1902)
116	13-04516-000-1-001	9-M	PSD-242109		BAGUMBAYAN	IMP.	COM	D-009-01412	ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT INC -150 E. RODRIGUEZ AVE. QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1)	204 904 60	
117	13-05788	15	3 PCS-04-000127	20001	BAGUMBAYAN	LOT	COM	E-009-01100	ABADILLA, ROLANDO M/TO SUSAN SAMONTE ESPIRITU ILOCOS NORTE	1995-2006(1)	11 260 604 84	
118	13-06501 / A	2	8 PSD-04-001102	600	UGONG NORTE	L / I.	RES.	E-126-00731 / D-126-04035	TAN, ANTONIO 1560 MANOTOC COMP. PAMPANGA ST. STA CRUZ MLA	1995-2006(1-2)	7,480,734 91	PR-374585 - 3/1991
119	13-07648-000-1-001	**	19-PCS-13-000719		ST IGNATIUS	IMP	COM	D-111-01188	DESIGN SCIENCE INC (BT & T REALTY CORP)	2001-2006(1-2) 2001-2006(1-2	224,510 16	
									-20 E. RODRIGUEZ AVE. LIBIS QUEZON CITY	2002-2006(1)	2,118 372 31	
120	13-08461	1-O	PSD-007404-005401-D		UGONG NORTE	LOT	RES	E-120-00141	MARCELINO, RODERICK L -DILIMAN QC			
121	14-00968-000-2-001	1-C-2-C-3-G-3-B-2	PSD-23980		D LAGI	MACH	COM.	D-027-02384	DBS BANK PHILS INC -269 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE. QUEZON CITY	1993-2006(1-2)	1,685 147 60	83165
122	14-01252	2-B-4	PSD-33987	1953.04	MARIANA	Lot	RES	E-061-00726	ST. PETER HOLDING CORP.-15TH FLR. STRATA 100 BLDG. ORTIGAS PASIG	2002-2006(1)	200 871 76	
123	14-03280-000-1-012	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES.	D-130-01053	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1)	763,539 10	N-208116 1/1/1990
124	14-03280-000-1-015	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES	D-130-01052	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	26,836 84	
125	14-03280-000-1-023	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP	RES	D-130-01054	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	15 795 05	
126	14-03280-000-1-033	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES.	D-130-01055	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	67 934 98	
127	14-03280-000-1-040	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES.	D-130-01056	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	42,039 16	
128	15-00334-000 * 001	12-A	LRC-PSD-26816		Loyola Heights	IMP	RES	D-056-04974	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	1,639 237 44	
129	15-00334-001	2-B	17 PSD-36337	503	Loyola Heights	LOT	RES	E-056-02129	SANTE DEV. CORP.-23 GREEN ST. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF SUBD. QC	1998-2006(1-2)	176,180 18	
130	15-01337 / A	16	5 (LRC) PCS-6818	511.5	Loyola Heights	L / I	RES	E-056-02145 / D-056-00458	SALUDO AG JR.

Republic of the Philippines
Quezon City
Office of the Treasurer

Serbisyong Bayan SB Lungsod Quezon

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY

By virtue of the provisions of Section 260 & 263 of RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the undersigned will sell at public auction on August 25, 2006 at the main entrance Taxpayer's Lounge Quezon City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, the real property herein below specified which are hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real property taxes, penalties, cost due thereon as of the date.

Republika ng Pilipinas
Lungsod Quezon
Tanggapan ng Ingat-Yaman

Serbisyong Bayan SB Lungsod Quezon

Patalastas Tungkol sa Pagsusubasta sa Ari-arlang di natitinag na Amoroso sa Buwis

Alinsunod sa tinatadhana ng Section 260 & 263 ng RA 7160, o ang tinatawag na Local Government Code of 1991, ang nakalagda sa ibaba ay magsusubasta sa publiko sa Agosto 25, 2006, sa ganap na ika-10:00 ng umaga sa Taxpayer's Lounge, Quezon City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City ng mga ari-ariang binabanggit sa ibaba na napatunayan na hindi bayad upang nabayaran ang amorosong buwis, multa at halagang pagsusubasta.

No.	Property Index #	Lot	Block	Area	Barangay	Kind	Cls	Tax Dec #	Declared Owner (Address)	Years	Amount	TCT No./Date
1	01-00037-020-1-015	3	154		DON MANUEL	IMP.	RES	D 030 01488	LYC REALTY & DEV CORP 9697 KAMAGONG ST MAKATI CITY	1992-2006(1-2)	164 418 40	
2	01-01117-020-1-001	15	19		DORA AURORA	IMP.	COM	D-031-00029	FIRST MEGABLOCK PROPERTIES DEV INC. - 89 LIM-AN ST. PASAY CITY	1997-2005	40,909 31	
3	02-00360-1001-001	1			Santol	Imp	Com	D-104-01907	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	160 223 03	12266 / 4/28/1999
4	02-00360-1001-002	1			Santol	Imp	Com	D-104-01908	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2000(1-2) 2006(1)	146 470.72	12269 / 4/28/1999
5	02-00360-1001-005	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01911	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	23 882 67	17483 / 4/28/1999
6	02-00360-1001-006	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01912	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2000(c) 2005(1)	5,972.07	17484 / 4/28/1999
-	02-00360-1001-007	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01913	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	11 221 70	17485 / 4/28/1999
8	02-00360-1001-008	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01914	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	16 264 14	17486 / 4/28/1999
9	02-00360-1001-009	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01915	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	24 613 68	17487 / 4/28/1999
10	02-00360-1001-010	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01916	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	25 380 93	17488 / 4/28/1999
11	02-00360-1001-011	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01917	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	23 882 67	17489 / 4/28/1999
12	02-00360-1001-013	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01919	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St ,Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	11,221 70	17491 / 4/28/1999
13	02-00360-1001-014	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01920	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	1999-2006(1-2)	18 632.44	17492 / 5/13/1997
14	02-00360-1001-015	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01921	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	1999(4) 2006(1-2)	27,037 66	17493 / 5/13/1997
15	02-00360-1001-016	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01922	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2001-2006(1)	25 380 93	17494 / 4/28/1999
16	02-00360-1001-017	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01923	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	119 362.59	12276 / 4/28/1999
17	02-00360-1001-018	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01924	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	100 062 20	12277 / 4/28/1999
18	02-00360-1001-019	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01925	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	28,483 83	17497 / 4/28/1999
19	02-00360-1001-020	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01926	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	6,265.80	17498 / 4/28/1999
20	02-00360-1001-021	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01927	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	13 374 24	17499 / 5/13/1997
21	02-00360-1001-022	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01928	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	16 264 14	17500 / 5/13/1997
22	02-00360-1001-023	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01929	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	29 215 88	17501 / 5/13/1997
23	02-00360-1001-024	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01930	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	30 225 65	17502 / 5/13/1997
24	02-00360-1001-025	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01931	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St .Santol, QC	2000-2006(1)	270 835.16	12280 / 7/24/1998
25	02-00360-1001-026	1			Santol	Imp	Res	D-104-01932	Marquette Realty & Dev Corp -1 Puray St.,Santol, QC	1999-2006(1)	924 644 09	12280 / 4/28/1999
26	02-00512	8	685-PCS-4732	750.00	Doña Imelda	Lot	Res	E-032-00439	New San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	1997(3-4) 2006(1)	66 982 50	97544 / 11/4/1993
27	02-00512-003-1-004-039	8	509		DOÑA IMELDA	IMP.	RES.	D-032-01035	TABALAN, MARCIAL B M/TO ROSA - 31 GUIRAYAN ST. DONA IMELDA QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	4,501 10	
28	02-01513-1001-005	4-B-11-V-1-A	PSD-00-03544		Doña Imelda	Imp	Res	D-032-03256	New San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	1995-2006(1)	421 523.30	
29	02-01514-1001-018	4-B-11-V-1-B	PSD-00-35444		Doña Imelda	Imp	Res	D-032-02902	New San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	2000(3-4) 06(1-2)	18 818.96	8912
30	02-01517-1001-008	4-B-11-V-1-E	PSD-00-035444		Doña Imelda	Imp	Res	D-032-01205	New San Jose Builders Inc - 71 Timog Ave. QC	1997-2006(1)	380 251.04	12268 / 4/28/1999
31	03-00319-000-1-002	11	45		LOURDES	IMP	RES.	D-055-02829	LAO, WILLIAM C. - APO ST LA LOMA QC	2001-2006(1)	878.955 87	
32	03-00710	25	233	897	DOÑA JOSEFA	LOT	COM.	E-033-00059	IGNACIO, TERESA R-42 BROADWAY ST. QUEZON CITY	1996(3-4) 2006(1)	747,777 81	87271 / (1/5/1965)
33	03-02357	17	523 PSD-67020	1000	TATALON	LOT	COM.	E-123-00119	VILLANUEVA, REGINO M/TO LIBRADA - 699 COMMONWEALTH AVE. CAPITOL DIST. Q.C.	1995(2-4) 2006(1-2)	877,200 00	115682 / (8/16/1994)
34	03-02308	18	523	971 3	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-00129	ONG, BENJAMIN ET AL1851 MARIA OROSA ST MALATE MANILA	1981-2006(1)	140,615 70	20338
35	03-02534	24	533	1000	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01987	JM TUAZON CO. INC -C/O GACI 5TH FLR. BOIE BLDG. ESCOLTA MANILA	1985-2006(1-2)	144,056 25	
36	03-02564	3	536-PCS-3824		Tatalon	Lot	Com	E-123-02510	Evangelista Rodolfo & Marina-2201 G. Tuazon St., Sampaloc, Mla	2000(2-4) 2006(1-2)	247 095.00	18509 / 7/31/1990
37	03-02648	16	530	815.2	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-02517	JM TUAZON CO INC - C/O GACI 5TH FLR BOIE BLDG ESCOLTA MANILA	1983-2006(1)	110,035 31	
38	03-02826	10	1 BCS-04-000015	54	TATALON	LOT	RES	E-123-01096	ROQUE ROGOLFO (NHA) - ALLEY 4 TATALON QC	1983-2006(1)	6,381 18	264092
39	03-02828	12	1	58 6	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01098	JOVEN, ROSIPIO - ALLEY 4 TATALON ESTATE QC	1983-2006(1)	6,714 24	263562
40	03-02843	27	1 BCS-04-000015	56	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01113	BAVIZ, DOMINGO G (NHA) - ALLEY 8 TATALON QC	1996-2006(1)	4,174 32	281538
41	03-02855	39	1 BCS-04-000015	54	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01125	ALIZA, GILDA (NHA) - ALLEY 13 TATALON ESTATE QC	1993-2006(1)	6,301 18	264019
42	03-02858	42	1 BCS-04-000015	48	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01128	BAUTISTA, JOHNNY (NHA) - ALLEY 11 TATALON EST QC	1992-2025	4,671 32	264003
43	03-02864	48	1	52 8	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-01135	MALAZUERTE, VITO (NHA) - ALLEY 16 TATALON QC	1983-2000(1)	6,238 62	264080
44	03-02882	2	5	51	TATALON	LOT	REG.	E-123-01027	MIGOTO, PARIDA ALLEY 2 TATALON QC	1983-2006(1)	7,405 20	264083
45	03-04127 / A	10	6-BCS-04-000055	54 8	TATALON	L / I	RES	E-123-03072/D-123-06273	NHA (LONTOC, ESTHER)-31 VICTORY AVE. TATALON QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1-2) 1999-2006(1-2)	107,199 88	
46	03-05087	6	5 BCS-04-000033	52 8	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-02110	DELARA, MILAGROS N & JUANITO SUBRE (NHA) - ALLEY 3 TATALON QUEZON CITY	1994-2006(1)	4,804 62	276127
47	03-06038	12	9-BCS-04-000033	78.1	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-02249	DETETREZ, FRANCHE ET AL (NHA) - L12 BB ALLEY 16 TATALON QUEZON CITY	1974-2006(1)	10,081 43	
48	03-07285	47	9-PSD-04-004371	63	TATALON	LOT	RES.	E-123-03366	DE LAS ALAS, PERLA-32-D BANAHAW ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	9,767 52	171839 / (2/23/1997)
49	03-07372-000-1-001	37	11		TATALON	IMP.	COM.	D-123-07081	PALACIO, JOSE DANTE-L37 B11 ST MARY ST. VILLA ESPANA SUBD, QC	2000-2006(1)	674,048 23	
50	04-00073-000-1-002	14	72		SAN ISIDRO	IMP.	RES.	D-039-01028	CHAN, PHILIP-MAYON ST. QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1-2)	685,234 93	
51	04-01117-000-1-004	21	80		SALVACION	IMP.	RES	D-083-02931	FREAL REALTY & DEV. CORP - 57-C P FLORENTINO ST STA MSA HGTS QC	2001-2006(1)	694,635 82	
52	05-00180 / A	6	143		N.S. Amoranto	L / I	Res	E-042-00423/D-042-00878	Mario De Guzman - 6 Sct. Alcaraz St., QC	1999-2006(1) 1999-2006(1)	38 126 72	264600 - 1/22/1982
53	05-00741 / A / B	9	305	264.00	St. Peter	L / I	Res	E-112-00575/D-112-01220/D-112-01227	Quiray, Felicisimo & Olivia - 16 Sibuyan St., San Jose, QC	2003-2006(1) 1997-2006(1) 1993-2006(1)	23 452 23	21107
54	05-00859-000-1-002	15	311		ST. PETER	IMP	RES.	D-112-01810	BACAUI, PATERNO 12 MATUTUM ST. QC	1995-2006(1 2)	44,787 40	
55	05-01667-000-1-003	37-B	359		San Jose	Imp	Res	D-100-01884	Ramirez, Amelia M - 2 Maubon cor. Kabetuen St QC	1999-2006(1-2)	275 226 60	
56	05-02568-000-2-002	3	399		MANRESA	MACH.	COM	D-050-03871	SOCIAL MFG. - 40 LATUKAN ST MANRESA QC	1980-2006(1-2)	6,448,850 49	
57	05-05181-000-2-001/ 05-05181-000-2-002	11-A	423-PSD-13-004788		MANRESA	MACH.	COM	D-050-03955/D-050-04953	NORTH POINT INTERNATIONAL VEHITURES CORP 199 SGT. RIVERA COR. G ARANETA AVE Q C	1997-2006(1) 1997-2006(1)	506,589 09	
58	06-00794-000-1-002	11	52		Pallok	Imp	Com	D-077-04740	Kawamoto Fine Furniture Inc - 1044 Del Monte Ave. QC	2002-2006(1-2)	3,593 957 45	
59	06-00857	6	55	944	PALTOK	LOT	RES.	E-077-01453	LOIS, AMANDA T ET AL-930 ASUNCION TONDO MANILA	1992-2006(1-2)	116,263 88	238568 / (9/20/1977)
60	06-00931	5	61	302	DEL MONTE	LOT	RES.	E-028-02568	FERNANDEZ, MA. LOURDES - 54 OSMENA ST SFDM. QUEZON CITY	1997-2006(1)	29,987 69	353669 / (1/14/1987)
61	06-01147-001-2-001	21-B	60		SAN ANTONIO	MACH.	IND.	D-096-04319	NEW AJAX ALUMINUM INDUST INC - 292 ROOSEVELT AVE. SFM QUEZON CITY	1990-2006(1-2)	861,158 22	
62	06-01903-000-2-001	5	102		Pallok	Imp	Ind	D-077-04170	Prestige Textile Mills Inc - 16 Zorra St., SFDM, QC	2000-2006(1)	460 706 25	
63	06-05937-000-1-001	1	VI-10		Pallok	Imp	Com	D-077-04273	Pilo Restaurant 61 West Ave. QC	1999-2006(1-2)	1,413 762 64	
64	06-06868-000-1-002	11-D	PSD-13-007619		SAN ANTONIO	IMP	COM	D-096-04379	CAPITOL DEV BANK - PEARL DR ORTIGAS CTR PASIG	2001-2006(1)	360.622 08	
65	06-07276-000-1-001	10-A-1/10-A-2/10-A-3			Pallok	Imp	Com	D-077-04003	Nova Furniture-Del Monte Ave cor. Judge J. Luna St., SFDM, QC	1999-2006(1)	4,310 706 26	
66	07-00450-000-2-002	3	LCH-22		Roxas	Mach	Com	D-091-03239	Trinidad, Miguel Luis U -66 Sct. Chuatoco St., Roxas Dist. QC	1996-2006(1-2)	448 473 69	
67	07-00803 / A	31	LCH-33		Roxas	L / I	Res	E-091-00711/D-091-01965	Alejo, Romeo P - 39 Sct. Reyes St., Roxas, QC	2000-2006(1) 1992-2006(1,	40 516 56	
68	07-00946 / A	19	LCH-40	200.00	Roxas	L / I	Res/ Ind	E-091-00761/D-091-03083	Valerio, Fernando mito Norma-5 Zinnia St., Roxas Dist. QC	1998(3-4) 2006(1) 1997(c) 2006(1)	1,499 828 50	309408 / 11/5/1987
69	07-01155-000-1-002	17	S-31		LAGING HANDA	IMP.	COM	D-053-04019	AVENA, RENATO M. - 35 SCT LIMBAGA ST L. HANDA QC	1998-2006(1)	1,256,416 90	
70	07-01330-000-1-003	9	70		SAN ANTONIO	IMP	RES	D-096-04358	RAMIREZ, REYNALDO ET AL-WEST RIVERSIDE ST QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	206,843 48	
71	07-01534	1-A	S-90	236	PALIGSAHAN	LOT	RES.	E-070-00432	VILLAREAL, CARLOS ET AL-32 CEBU AVE. DILIMAN QUEZON CITY	2003(3-4) 2006(1)	18,510 46	31664
72	07-01677-000-2-030	WHOLE	S-105		OBRERO	MACH.	IND.	D-072-00957	LIBERTAD MANAGEMENT CORP.-54-A DON ROCES AVE. QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	24,858 40	
73	07-01793-000-1-004	10	S-135		Paligsahan	Imp	Com	D-075-01801	Phil Seven Prop. Corp - Roces Ave cor. Quezon Ave QC	2000-2006(1-2)	427 621 74	
74	07-01836 / A	10	S-136	1884.6	PALIGSAHAN	L / I	COM.	E-076-00111 / D-076-01991	ISIP, ALEGRIA M-378 QUEZON BLVD QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1-2) 2001-2006(1-2)	1,226,741.35	
75	07-01995 / A	4	4	717.5	Nayong Kanluran	L / I.	RES.	E-070-00035 / D-070-01030	BALTAZAR, DANTE C. ET AL-16 VIOLETA ST ROXAS DIST. QUEZON CITY	1999-2005(1) 1992-2005(1)	64,803 87	355573 / (3/16/1987)
76	07-02020-000-1-001-028	3-A	PSD-44057-W-6		Nayong Kanluran	IMP.	RES.	D-070-00557	SARJ CONST. & DEV. CORP.-2041 A. LUNA CONDO F HUERTAS STA. CRUZ MLA	1997-2006	5,157 07	
77	07-02020-000-1-001-029	3-A	PSD-44057		Nayong Kanluran	IMP	RES	D-070-00558	SARJ CONST. & DEV. CORP.-2041 A. LUNA CONDO F HUERTAS STA. CRUZ MLA	1997-2006	5,157 07	
78	07-02020-000-1-001-030	3-A	W-6 PSD-44057		Nayong Kanluran	IMP.	RES	D-070-00566	SARJ CONST. & DEV. CORP.-2041 A. LUNA CONDO F HUERTAS STA. CRUZ MLA	1997-2006	5,157 07	
79	07-02020-000-1-001-031	3-A	W-6 PSD-4047		Nayong Kanluran	IMP	RES	D-070-00569	SARJ CONST. & DEV. CORP.-2041 A. LUNA CONDO F HUERTAS STA. CRUZ MLA	1997-2006(1)	5,328 67	
80	07-02028-000-1-001	11	W-6		Nayong Kanluran	IMP.	RES.	D-070-00788	CARONAN, JUSTO CESAR JR - SOLANA CAGAYAN	1999-2006(1)	120 456 90	
81	07-03234-000-1-001	5-B	LRC-PSD-316833		PALIGSAHAN	IMP	COM	D-076-01267	MAXIMA EQUIPMENT CO INC - 202 S RODRIGUEZ AVE QC	2003-2006(1)	266 056 74	
82	07-03981-000-1-001-174	1 & 2	PCS-007404-004575-D		PALIGSAHAN	IMP	RES.	D-076-02207	FIRST TAIPAN GROUP DEV CORP - PHIL. STOCK EXCHANGE CTR. WEST TOWER PASIG	1999-2005(1)	-4,462 52	
83	07-03758 / A	7-A	PSD-007404	376	PALIGSAHAN	L / I	COM	E-076-00053 / D-073-01457	ORILLAZA, JOSE G & DOLORES M - 12 KAPAYAPAAN ST KAWILIHAN VILL. PASIG CITY	2001-2006(1) 1997-2006(1)	1,054 031 59	129523 / (4/20/1995)
84	08-03228-000-1-001	23-D	PSD-08-035200		LAGING HANDA	IMP	RES	D-053-01845	LAZATIN, BENEDICT M/TO MA. ZENAIDA MONTES -55 TIMES CR DALISAY ST West Triangle QC	1997-2006(1)	58,345 10	
85	09-00206	4	E-16	610	UP Village	LOT	RES.	E-129-00062	DIPASUPIL, PETRONILA M -62 ST. MARY ST. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1-2)	67 506 70	116596 / (2/16/1967)
86	09-00929 / A	1	E-54		Teachers Village East	L / I	Com	E-124-03374 / D-124-00939	International Communications Corp-234 Roosevelt Ave., SFDM, QC	95(3-4) 2006(1-2) 98(3-4) 2006(1-2)	22,076,046 25	
87	09-00998 / A	4	E-57	614.80	Teachers Village West	L / I	Res	D-125-00229 / D-125-01295	Araza, Edgardo - 13 Sct. Fuentebella St. QC	2000(3-4) 2006(1) 2000(3-4) 2006(1)	49 920 31	327447 / 2/4/1985
88	09-01074 / A	14	E-105	540	CENTRAL	L / I.	RES.	E-021-00055 / D-021-01843	MANANSALA, MELENCIO-8 CASTILLAS ST. NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1) 2000-2006(1)	696,663 48	269745 / (6/14/1982)
89	09-02696-000-1-001	6	K-29		Pilahan	Imp	Com/Res	D-084-00304	Dela Cruz, Kelly N 21 Kamias Road, QC	1999-2006(1)	413 070 16	
90	09-04600-5-1-8-011	3-F			Central	Imp	Res	D-021-02078	Tempus Place Realty Mgt. Corp-Tempus Place Bldg. Maginoo St. QC	1995-2006(1-2)	550 159 88	
91	09-00637-000-1-001	18-A TO H	LRA-PSD-30720		PIÑAHAN	IMP.	COM	D-084-03370	RICAFORTE, RAMON (NING-HANG) - 23 V LUNA RD PINAHAN QUEZON CITY	1998-2006(1-2)	347 892 42	
92	10-00140-000-1-003	80	203		QUIRINO 2-A	IMP	COM	D-060-01749	PHIL SEVEN CORP - 3/F STATE FINANCE CENTER ORTIGAS MANDALUYONG	1996-2006(1)	346,931 88	
93	10-02630 / B	54	LCH-451	177.7	MARILAG	L / I	RES	E-053-00744 / D-053-03283	TORRES, EFREN M & ARNULFA L-4-B 20TH AVE. MURPHY QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1) 2000-2006(1)	116,873 56	128322 / (3/30/1985)
94	10-02798 / A / B	16	LCH-457	240 60	Marilag	L / I	Res	E-053-01111 / D-053-03222 / D-053-01113	Ambes, Valentina C. - 14-F Cubao St., Proj. 4, QC	1999-2006(1-2) 1999-2006(1-2) 1999-2006(1-2)	131 860 84	80748 / 2/22/1935
95	10-04537-000-2-001	7	IN-1		TAGUMPAY	MACH.	COM	D-119-00181	PERMANENT LIGHT MFG ENT.-7 21ST AVE. CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	204,473 28	
96	10-04583-000-1-001	2	LRC PCS-14312		BLUE RIDGE A	IMP	RES	D-016-00352	RODRIGUEZ, ANTONIO-SKYLINE DRIVE BLUE RIDGE QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	194,111 44	
97	11-00351-000-1-001	4	712		Veterans Village	IMP	COM	D-132-02951	URMALI, CONCHITA - 62 DANGAY ST PROJ. 7 QC	2001-2006(1)	63,108 98	
98	11-03401	4	IN-28	611.20	Bagong Pag-asa	Lot	Res	E-007-00131	Del Mundo, Ester 54 Rd 13 Pag-asa, QC	1999-2006(1)	33 926 16	106873 / 5/13/1993
99	11-06071-000-2-070	1	LRC-PSD-104291		Sto. Cristo	Mach	Com	D-117-01918	PNB PNB Bldg Escolta, Mla	1993-2006(1-2)	287 872.64	
100	11-06162	9	BSD-01-000245	400.7	BUNGAD	LOT	RES	E-018-00871	PUNO, CARLITO S & MAGDALENA-231 ALLEY 1 PROJ 6 QUEZON CITY	1993-2006(1)	46,021 56	269701 / (8/21/1979)
101	11-06215 / A	10	PSD-04-00808	240	R.MAGSAYSAY	L / I	RES	E-050-00387 / D-050-01004	DE CASTEN, LYDIA & ANTONIO JR-74 BUKIDNON B.BANTAY QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1) 2001-2006(1)	58,140 00	275004 / (1/16/1981)
102	11-06267	36-B	PSD-306759	110	R MAGSAYSAY	LOT	RES	E-050-00239	MADLANGAWA, FELIPE J -1218 TAMBUNTING ST. STA CRUZ MANILA	1998-2006(1)	6,916 16	292095 / (10/8/1982)
103	11-06280-000-1-001	13-C	PSD-13-000081		PROJECT 6	IMP	RES	D-007-03755	DELA VEGA, MARLON B - 18-C ROAD 1 PAGASA QC	1995-2006(1)	22,112 78	
104	11-06328 / A	21-J	PSD-13-000895	65	Veterans Village	L / I	RES	E-132-00350 / D-132-02500	ABLE DEV CORP-11 GUIRAYAN ST ARANETA SUBD QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1) 1985-2006(1)	55,603 76	318340 / (7-2/1984)
105	12-00751-001	38-B	24 PCS-817	380	SILANGAN	LOT	COM	E-108-00436	TY, ANITA N-1401 SAN MARCELINO ST ERMITA MANILA	1986-2006(1-2)	83,560 17	375343 / (2/3/1988)
106	12-00758-001-1-001	1 & 2	PCS-14302		SILANGAN	IMP	COM	D-108-01503	FLORESCA, ELY T 16 ALBAY ST. CUBAO QC	1988-2006(1)	81 621 98	
107	12-02837	*	12 PCS-380	1012	MARIANA	LOT	COM	E-051-03018	GARCIA, JUSTA-ESPANA EXT. CUBAO QUZON CITY	1985-2006(1)	1 124 109 36	119111 / (5/23/1967)
108	12-03475-000-1-002	9	6		I CONCEPCION	IMP.	COM	D-045-01973	KRAFFT PROPERTIES INC - MANHATTAN ST. QC	1998-2006(1)	1.032.057 60	
109	12-03568 / A	4	13-PSD-22247	300	PINAGKAISAHAN	L / I.	RES	E-063-00347 / D-063-00915	AGCAOILI, JOSE & JOCELYN-71 E. GARCIA ST. QUEZON CITY	2000-2005(1-2) 1993-2006(1-2)	1.784.845 48	353787
110	12-05514-000-1-001-103	3-B	PSD-00353		KAUNLARAN	IMP.	RES.	D-050-02808	VILLASI MAGDALENA T ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	2 254 419 72	2901 / (8/3/1992)
111	12-05514-000-1-001-104	3-B	PSD-00353		KAUNLARAN	IMP.	RES.	D-050-02809	VILLASI MAGDALENA T ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	1.311 325 27	
112	12-05514-000-1-001-105	3-B	PSD-00353		KAUNLARAN	IMP	COM	D-050-02810	VILLASI MAGDALENA T ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1)	2.620.779 84	
113	12-05514-000-1-012	3-B	PSD-00353		KAUNLARAN	IMP.	COM.	D-050-01921	VILLASI MAGDALENA T ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1993-2006(1)	132,480 05	2882 / (8/3/1992)
114	12-05574-000-1-001-010	3-B	PSD-00353		KAUNLARAN	IMP.	COM	D-050-01965	VILLASI MAGDALENA T ET AL-101 MARYLAND ST CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1993-2006(1)	836,354 30	2880 / (8/3/1992)
115	12-06906-000-1-001	1-O	PSD-00-036714		BL ng Crame	IMP.	RES.	D-003-02737	FILINVEST LAND INC -FDC BLDG. 173 P. GOMEZ ST. SAN JUAN M.M.	1999-2006(1)	204,904 50	
116	13-04546-000-1-001	9-M	PSD-242169		BAGUMBAYAN	IMP.	COM.	D-009-01412	ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT INC -169 E. RODRIGUEZ AVE. QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	11 269 604 84	
117	13-05766	15	3 PCS-04-000127	20001	BAGUMBAYAN	LOT	COM	E-009-01100	ABADILLA, ROLANDO M/TO SUSAN SAMONTE ESPIRITU ILOCOS NORTE	1993-2006(1-2)	7,480,734 51	PR-374585 - 11/13/1989
118	13-05801 / A	2	8 PSD-04-001162	600	UGONG NORTE	L / I.	RES.	E-125-00731 / D-125-04035	TAN, ANTONIO - 1560 MANOTOC CORP PAMPANGA ST STA CRUZ MLA	2001-2006(1-2) 2001-2006(1-2)	224,510 16	
119	13-07648-000-1-001	1*	19-PCS-13-000719		ST IGNATIUS	IMP.	COM	D-111-01188	DESIGN SCIENCE INC (BT & T REALTY CORP) -20 E. RODRIGUEZ AVE. LIBIS QUEZON CITY	2002-2006(1)	2,118,372.31	
120	13-08481	1-D	PSD-007404-025401-D		UGONG NORTE	LOT	RES.	E-120-00141	MARCELINO, RODERICK L -DILIMAN QC	1993-2006(1-2)	1,655,147 60	83160
121	14-00968-000-2-001	1-C-2-D-3-G-3-B-2	PSD-23999		D LAGI	MACH.	COM.	D-027-02384	DBS BANK PHILS INC -269 E. RODRIGUEZ SR. AVE. QUEZON CITY	2002-2006(1)	200 871 76	
122	14-01282	2-B-4	PSD-33687	1953.04	MARIANA	Lot	RES	E-061-00726	ST. PETER HOLDING CORP.-15TH FLR. STRATA 100 BLDG. ORTIGAS PASIG	2000-2006(1)	790,539 10	N-208116 / (11/17/1999)
123	14-03269-000-1-012	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES.	D-130-01853	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	25,636 94	
124	14-03269-000-1-015	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES.	D-130-01852	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	15,795 05	
125	14-03269-000-1-023	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP	RES	D-130-01854	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	62,934 96	
126	14-03269-000-1-032	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES.	D-130-01855	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	42,039 10	
127	14-03269-000-1-049	2-U	PSD-13-000414		VALENCIA	IMP.	RES.	D-130-01856	NEW MANILA CONDOMINIUM CORP.-21 N. DOMINGO NEW MANILA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	1,039 337 44	
128	15-00334-000-1-001	12-A	LRC-PSD-28816		Loyola Heights	IMP	RES	D-056-04974	SANTE DEV. CORP.-23 GREEN ST. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF SUBD Q.C	1998-2006(1-2)	176,180 18	
129	15-00331-001	2-B	17 PSD-36337	500	Loyola Heights

No.	Property Index #	Lot	Block	Area	Barangay	Kind	Cls	Tax Dec #	Declared Owner (Address)	Years	Amount	TCT No./Date
171	18-00811 / A	8	3	647	CULIAT	LOT	RES	E-024-03643 / D-024-07432	PENA, LILIAN M - 6 RODRIGUEZ GR AVE CUBAO QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1) 2000-2006(1)	160,310.48	66704 / (9/11/1992)
172	18-02179	7	20	378	Pasong Tamo	LOT	RES	E-081-03835	SANTOS, ROBERTO B - 262 SAN RAFAEL SN MIGUEL MANILA	1994-2006(1)	15,715.40	171045 / (11/25/1971)
173	18-02181	9	20-PSD-22809	380	Pasong Tamo	LOT	RES	E-081-03951	ERMITANIO, LEON C. - NAPIGPIT AGUSAN DEL NORTE	1993-2006(1)	11,434.20	146596 / (10/31/1969)
174	18-03343 / A	1-A	25 PSD-66028	601.4	BAHAY TORO	LOT	RES	E-011-03009 / D-011-12023	MABANAG, ANGELITA C - 22 REAL ESTATE ST GSIS VILL QUEZON CITY	1985-2006(1) 1987-2006(1)	240,091.02	327307 / (11/31/1985,
175	18-05603	3	PSD-3951	600	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES	E-122-00197	VILLAROMA, LINA - 71 FELIX MANALO CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	13,515.00	56040 / (5/23/1961)
176	18-06063 / A	3307-C-9	LRC PSD-36881	300	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES.	E-122-00230 / D-122-07090	VENZON, FELIPE C. - 47 MARIQUIT ST MANOTOLO SUBD BAESA Q.C.	2001-2006(1) 1994-2006(1)	372,810.48	73472 / (12/5/1963)
177	18-10371-000-1-001	578-A-9	PSD-54359		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES.	D-122-23578	BARMIENTO, RODOLFO B & R C - 23 MILEGUAS ST TOREG SUBD TSORA Q C	2001-2006(1)	95,622.48	
178	18-13595	684-E-1-A	LRC PSD-58707	601	CULIAT	LOT	RES	E-024-05040	ANGELMO, REMEDIOS B - 13-A RD PAGASA QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1)	52,202.30	180609 / (10/4/1972)
179	18-14781	"	48LRC/PSD-16205	353.00	Pasong Tamo	Lot	Res	E-081-07399	SAF Associates Realty & Builders - 165 Josefa Drive, San Juan, MM	1997-2006(1-2)	20,739.48	248134 / 8/22/1978
180	18-17352-000-1-002	1	22		Pasong Tamo	Imp	Res	D-081-13605	Joaquin Rona - L1 B22 Sampaguita cor. Mapayapa, QC	1998-2006(1-2)	157,857.59	
181	18-21992	20	4 PCS-04-001052	120	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES	E-122-01809	RAMOS, ERNESTO C MITO FLORDELIZA T - 14A VILL BANLAT QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1)	4,112.64	329761 / (1/23/1986)
182	18-22416-000-1-001	6	14PSD-13-016437		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES.	D-122-10552	SIMON, FELANOR D - PAMPLONA CENTRO CAGAYAN	1996-2006(1)	10,964.88	
183	18-22439-000-1-001	10	15		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES	D-122-25188	TADENA, BAYANI C - 30 AGANAN ST NIA VIL T SORA QC	1991-2006(1)	29,548.49	
184	18-22805	5	1 PCS-13-000334	288	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES	E-122-00099	URBAN PROJECTS DEV CORP - 280 TUAZON ST QUEZON CITY	1996-2006(1)	38,616.50	325306 / (1/30/1964)
185	18-22843-000-1-001	22	2		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES	D-122-08081	URBAN PROJECTS DEV CORP - 280 TUAZON ST QUEZON CITY	1989-2006(1)	29,803.54	
186	18-27870	17	PCS-13-001021	303	Pasong Tamo	LOT	RES	E-081-04780	GUIDOTE, MICHELINE & MA PAZ DELOS SANTOS - 3587 PARAISO STA MESA MANILA	1990-2006(1)	19,650.20	107665 / (5/4/1954)
187	18-28334	2	PCS-13-001255	248.00	Tandang Sora	Lot	Res	E-122-11163	Badillo, Oscar Mito Haydee - 60 Engineering St. GSIS Vil Proj 6, QC	1991-2006(1-2)	19,128.70	377738 / (3/7/1988
188	18-01331	26	5 FLS-1755-D	251	GULOD	LOT	RES.	E-043-03149	DIAZ, AMADO C & CECILIA DIAZ - 404 HULO BLISS CORONADO ST MANDALUYONG	1998-2006(1)	6,505.80	332921 / (7/9/1985)
189	18-01499	490-B	PSD-450	3209	Bagbag	LOT	RES.	E-065-02807	FALCON KNITTING AND TEXTILE COMPANY - 201 DEL MONTE AVE. QUEZON CITY	2001-2005	48,602.18	383521 / (6/9/1988)
190	18-01626	537-B-1	PSD-1946	5000	STA LUCIA	LOT	COM	E-114-02305	TRANSUNION CORP - 331 SEN GIL PUYAT AVE MAKATI CITY	1998-2006(1)	1,152,397.50	353347 / (10/8/1987)
191	18-02469	243-A-1	(LRC) PSD-40138	601	GULOD	LOT	RES	E-043-03675	DEVELOPMENT BANK OF RIZAL - 526 SAMSON RD CALOOCAN CITY	2000-2006(1-2)	9,349.50	192760 / (8/24/1973
192	18-02473-000-1-002	243-E	FLS-287		GULOD	IMP.	RES	D-043-03035	MARQUEZ, ROSARIO - 63 SAN LUIS ST GULOD NOVA QUEZON CITY	1994-2005	48,743.20	
193	18-05612-001	169-B-1-B-2	LRC-PSD-57423	600.00	San Bartolome	Lot	Res	E-097-02878	Bartolome, Prudencio D - 218 P Dela Cruz St., San Bartolome, QC	1994-2000(1-2)	36,006.60	55314 / 3/15/1982
194	18-05356-000-1-001	457-A-2			BAGBAG	IMP	RES	D-005-05483	BALINGIT, JULITA - BAGBAG NOVA QUEZON CITY	1997-2006(1)	40,730.30	
195	18-05047-000-1-001	9	3-LRC-PSD-89600		San Bartolome	IMP	RES.	D-097-14963	ESGUERRA, ZENAIDA P - 35 GAMA ST RT GONZALES VILL QUEZON CITY	1995-2006(1-2)	34,458.42	
196	18-05971-000-1-001		4		San Bartolome	IMP.	RES	D-097-14289	SALVADOR, TERESITA - 48 GAMA ST RT GONZALES SU BARTOLOME Q.C	1998-2005(*1	214,485.74	
197	18-06058	1	4	240	San Bartolome	LOT	RES	E-097-04187	USI, EMILIA T - 157 SAN ISIDRO ST MASANTO PAMPANGA	1995-2006	18,516.60	195756 / (1/16/1974)
198	18-06652		9 LRC-PSD-11975	265.00	San Bartolome	Lot	Res	E-097-04022	Quiambao, Emiliano S - 1740 A Rivera St., Tondo Mla	2001-2006(1-2)	11,353.46	297978 / 3/21/1983
199	18-03777	5	16 LRCPCS-11976	265	San Bartolome	LOT	RES	E-097-04000	SOLID HOMES - 76 SOUTH AVE QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1-2)	16,408.20	
200	18-05780	2	16 LRC PCS-11976	676	San Bartolome	LOT	RES	E-097-03609	TAN, JOSE CARLOS A. - 53-A AGUDO ST CALOOCAN CITY	1997-2006(1-2)	40,645.44	246581 / (6/25/1970)
201	18-10020-000-1-003	15	J		SAUYO	IMP	COM	D-105-10509	POWER TECH CORP - SAUYO RD MANCHESTER INDL SUBD SAUYO Q C	1997-2006(1-2)	3,121,164.51	
202	18-10124	13	2 PCS-04-000811	200	STA LUCIA	LOT	RES	E-114-00085	G AN REALTY CORP - 1268 BATANGAS ST STA CRUZ MANILA	1993-2006(1-2)	17,564.46	287066 / (4/15/1982)
203	18-13363 / A	3-B	(LRC) PSD-340915		San Bartolome	LOT	RES	E-097-05842 / D-097-12071	TRINIDAD, PONCIANO C ET AL - 1185-B EDSA BAL QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1-2) 1999-2005(1-2)	12,334.36	371192 / (11/16/1987)
204	18-14654	"	19 PCS-13-001226	132	BAGBAG	LOT	RES	E-005-00720	BACULI, APOLINARIO MITO DAPROSA - L11 B19 SAMPAGUITA ST SAN PEDRO NOVA, Q C	1999-2006(1-2)	11,651.88	10259 / 11/27/1981
205	18-17113	873-A-2	PSD-13-016847	37565	Sauyo	LOT	RES.	E-105-02672	TRANSUNION CORP - 331 SEN GIL PUYAT AVE MAKATI CITY	1998-2006(1)	2,412,421.42	46331 / (9/9/1991)
206	20-00013	13	1-LRC-PSD-9707	512	Pasong Putik	LOT	RES	E-080-00726	ENRIQUEZ, GUILLERMO R & RACQUEL - MALIGAYA PARK 1 NOVA QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1)	16,468.58	*58276 / (9/21/1970)
207	20-00184	23	9 LRC PSD-9707	670	Pasong Putik	LOT	RES	E-080-00330	CORDERO, ROGELIO P MITO TERESITA J - 885-I SIERRA MADRE COR ARAYAT MANDALUYONG	2001-2006(1)	21,551.22	295211 / (12/27/1982)
208	20-01375-000-1-003	26			NOVA PROPER	IMP	COM	D-071-01778	MAGAT, VICTORINO ET AL - RAMIREZ ST NOVA QC	1997-2006(1)	917,034.47	
209	20-01445-000-1-002	69-B-6	LRC PSD-5280		STA MONICA	IMP	COM.	D-115-07104	TRINIDAD, NICOLAS M ET AL - 1011 QUIRINO HIWAY NOVA QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	222,514.77	
210	20-01642-001-1-001	155-A-2	LRC-PSD-244057		Nagkaisang Nayon	IMP	COM	D-069-05370	TONDO LUMBER CORP - GEN LUIS NOVA QC	1996-2006(*)	379,845.35	
211	20-01644-000-1-005	165-B			Nagkaisang Nayon	Imp	Ind	D-069-06238	Ayala Integrated Steel Mfg Co Inc - 165 Gen Luis St., Nova QC	1997-2006(1-2)	2,331,106.09	
212	20-01655	172-B		5132	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	IND	E-069-04827	TEE, MARY ET AL CAPRI NOVA QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	700,019.70	*90559 / (5/9/197
213	20-01751-1004-052	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11564	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999(3-4) 2006(1-2)	14,608.44	*2776
214	20-01751-1004-055	"	LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11570	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	12782 / 8/21/1995
215	20-01751-1004-074		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11565	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1998-2006(1-2)	17,738.82	*2768
216	20-01751-1003-080		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11592	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1998-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*2804 / 8/21/1996
217	20-01751-1011-021		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-13758	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1998-2006(1-2)	17,738.82	*3534 / 8/21/1996
218	20-01751-1011-080		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11202	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	2001-2006(1-2)	11,478.66	*3552 / 8/21/1996
219	20-01751-1013-001		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10778	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1998-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*3767
220	20-01751-1013-034		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10790	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999(3-4) 2006(1-2)	14,609.48	*3800 / 8/21/1996
221	20-01751-1013-038		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10709	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*3804 / 8/21/1996
222	20-01751-1013-055		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10501	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*3821 / 8/21/1996
223	20-01751-1014-015		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10822	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*3840 / 8/21/1996
224	20-01751-1014-025		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10831	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*3849
225	20-01751-1014-026		LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10831	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*3852
226	20-01751-1014-044	J	LRC-PSD-103		Kaligayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10840	Pharma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	*3868
227	20-02087-003-1-001	681-D	LRC-PSD-28066		NOVA PROPER	IMP	COM	D-071-02621	SI, CHONG ET AL - 246-250 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	*991-2006(1)	1,527,275.60	
228	20-02727	594-I-5-B-27	PSD-10510	400	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES	E-069-02380	BUENAVENTURA, MARTIN L - NOVALICHES QUEZON CITY	*999-2006(1)	25,111.22	25034 / (3/4/190
229	20-02878-000-2-003	171-C-1-A-1			Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09413	PHIL LEAD CORP - 144 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	*989-2006(1)	330,785.28	
230	20-02878-001-2-005	171-C-1-A-2	(LRC) PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09412	WOODIRON MFG CORP -145 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	*978-2006(1)	170,816.25	
31	20-02876-001-2-006	171-C-1-A-2	(LRC) PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09413	WOODIRON MFG CORP -148 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	*999-2006(1)	163,999.53	
32	20-02876-001-2-007	171-C-1-A-2	(LRC) PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09414	WOODIRON MFG CORP -145 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	*981-2006(1-2)	107,328.45	
233	20-02876-001-2-01*	171-C-1-A	2 LRC PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09459	WOODIRON MFG CORP -148 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	*988-2006(1)	172,582.*0	
234	20-02920	"	3 PCS-1387	431.9	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES	E-069-04000	MERCADO, EMILIANO ET AL - 75 CRUZ SUBD RM 18 NOVALICHES QUEZON CITY	*989-2006(1)	25,111.22	
235	20-03044-000-1-(	4	10 PCS-1387		Nagkaisang Nayon	IMP	RES	D-069-12316	ASUNCION, WILLIE - LAKANDULA ST 75 CRUZ SUBD NOVA QC	*956-2006(1)	26,353.24	
236	20-03065	""	11-PCS-1387	411.4	SAN AGUSTIN	LOT	RES	E-095-01748	VELASCO, GUILLERMO & NATALIA TRINIDAD - 2 AGUINALDO ST 75 CRUZ SUBD NOVA Q C	*981-2006(1)	37,045.60	005 (12/20/1955
237	20-03112-000-1-(w		4		SAN AGUSTIN	IMP	RES	D-095-04534	RICAFRENTE, CONCHITA MOLAVE ST NOVA HOMES SN AGUSTIN Q C	*992-2006(1)	24,640.50	
238	20-03145-000-1-(*"		15		SAN AGUSTIN	IMP	RES	D-095-04674	BELL, ALICIA - 59 BUENDIA PASAY CITY	*993-2006(1)	73,891.86	
239	20-03267	41	(LRC) PSD-26303	240	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES	E-069-01424	SOLOMON, JESUS MITO PILAR D - 39 LINAO ST STA MESA HEIGHT QUEZON CIT	2000-2006(1)	9,905.22	352637 / (12/8/1986)
240	20-03369	RD LOT 3	PSD-56092	675	KALIGAYAHAN	LOT	RES	E-046-03804	DIAMSON REALTY CORP FCI BLDG DASMARINAS MANILA	*993-2006(1)	*929.23	34016
241	20-03412	17	3-FLS-1757-D	200.00	Sta Monica	Lot	Res	E-115-06069	Aldon, Florencio C 32 Gen Wood St. BFDM QC	*995-2006(1-	16,340.40	228625 / 3/8/197*
242	20-03771	751-B	FLS-2274-D	861	STA MONICA	LOT	RES	E-115-03208	RURAL BANK OF MUNTINLUPA (RIZAL) INC MUNTINLUPA CITY	*996-2006(1)	55,854.86	210939 / 7/7/1976
243	20-0667-	318-D-22	(LRC) PSD-40929	354	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES	E-069-05251	"ORRES, CONRADO S & AMOR - RM 504 DONA MERCEDES BLDG. QUIAPO MANILA	*974-200*	28,555.47	
244	20-07275-000-1-001	""	""		Patong Putik	IMP	RES	D-080-20936	CAAYON, MARIVIET - L23 B13 CHESTERFIELD ST QC	*989-2006(1)	127,910.75	
245	20-09544			200	North Fairview	LOT	RES	E-143-01871	LAGRO DEV & REALTY CORP - 3F MSE BLDG AYALA MAKATI CIT+	*973-2006(1)	22,354.60	
246	20-15593		73-LRC-PCS-18345	400	North Fairview	LOT	RES	E-143-02357	BC REGALADO & CO INC - 155 EDSA GREENHILLS MANDALUYONG C.T+	*950-2006(1)	34,308.00	212044
247	20-17525	49	134	300	G LAGRO	LOT	RES	E-142-05271	NEW NORTH FAIRVIEW REALTY & DEV INC 195 EDSA GREENHILLS MANDALUYONG CIT+	*998-2006(1)	26,310.00	47345 (4/5/199
248	20-18325-000-1-(**	34	157		G LAGRO	IMP	COM	D-142-08308	"OWER PLACE BILLIARD & GRILL RESTAURANT - B157 L34 MINDANAO CR COMMONWEALTH Q C	*998-2006(1)	2,503,792.38	
249	20-22508-000-1-***	1-B-1 &	LRC-PSD-336482		NOVA PROPER	IMP	COM	D-071-02637	ACCREDITED TRADING CORP 23 DONA ROSARIO ST NOVA QUEZON CITY	*991-2006(1)	1,318,210.14	
250	20-22675	LOT-2-A	LRC-PSD-295949	200	SAN AGUSTIN	LOT	RES	E-095-02267	GAPAS, PEDRO & PACIFICA CORTEZ 206 "" KANLAON MANDALUYONG	*995-2006(1)	16,585.00	274406
251	20-23045-000-1-	18	6 PCS-04-00455		SAN AGUSTIN	IMP	COM	D-095-06976	FLORES, SEGUNDINA L18 B6 DONA MARIA ST COR DN ALEJANDRO C	1994-2005(1)	31,564.48	
252	20-23083	""	PSD-13-002168	2,840.00	Sta Monica	Lot	Res	E-115-02220	De Lasoge, Aurora Guerzon et al - 270 Quezon Ave. QC	1992-2000(1-	50,359.01	352970 / 12/8/1986
253	21-02983		15	453	HOLY SPIRIT	LOT	RES	E-138-04431	LUNA, ADELINA - 28 KENTUCKY ST SFV QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	32,113.86	155912 / (8/7/197*
254	21-01385		4 PSD-3088	1413	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-05403	CRISTI, GREGORIA - SAN MATEO RIZAL	*982-2006(1)	88,795.80	67515 - (3/7/1903
255	21-02559		" PSD-53038	455	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-03768	DATU, IVINNE G - 99 TIMOG DILIMAN QUEZON CIT+	1998-2006(1)	23,047.56	293553 / (8/10/*982
256	21-02579		10 PSD-53031	5769	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-05713	JOSE E DESIDERIO & CO INC 81 DOMINGO SANTIAGO SAMPALOC MANILA	1982-2006(1)	271,304.94	
257	21-02622-01	""	PSD-2805	452	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-03890	PROVIDENT SAVINGS BANK RM 401 CONSUNJI BLDG AYALA AVE MAKATI CIT	*97-2006(1)	26,559.88	326978 *95/1985
258	21-03256	70-D-(	PSD-2201	2,184.00	Commonwealth	Lot	Res	E-023-09044	Bahia, Eduardo P 24 K-6th St Kamias, QC	1998(3-4) 2006(1-2)	44,560.36	168351 / 3/26/1973
259	21-03353-001	" E	(LRC) PSD-53953	337	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-0***	ANAO, BRUNA D - 342 A LAKE SAN JUAN M M	1986-2006(1"	3,***.82	105574 / (5/18/1966
260	21-03521	"B-""	(LRC) PSD-56195	5000	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-0***	FRANCISCO, LUIS F "" CALAAMAN CALOOCAN CI+	2000-2006(1	50,490.00	105058 * 1/12/1968
261	21-03919	43-B-25-F	PSD-4879	484	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-03238	IMPERIAL, OFELIA A 1340 STO SEPULERA ST PACO MANILA	1983-2006(1	38,726.42	208868 (8/23/1
262	21-04135	795-C-2	PSD-20698	15000	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-06591	URBAN POOR HOMEOWNERS ASSO INC AREA " A LUZON AVE OLD BALARA QUEZON CI	1999-2006(1	495,450.00	73151 / 11/20/1
263	21-04480	"-B-"	LRC-PSD-74720	25526	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-10685	SERRANO, EMMA P 92 P ACIN ST CAL "ITY	1997-2006(1	680,559.24	
264	21-0453*		" PCS-1996	420	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-0***	PEREZ PRESENTACION, RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1958-2006(1	13,943.41	
265	21-04566		3 PCS-1996	500	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01611	PEREZ PRESENTACION, RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1988-2006(1	15,674.04	
266	21-04570		3 PCS-1996	482	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01612	PEREZ PRESENTACION, RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1969-2006(1	18,369.65	
267	21-04581		3 PCS-1996	428	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01614	PEREZ PRESENTACION, RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1958-2006(1	16,327.*5	
268	21-04584		3 PCS-1996	424	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-0*51	PEREZ PRESENTACION, RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1928-2006(1	16,260.15	
269	21-04585		3 PCS-1996	421	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01691	PEREZ PRESENTACION, RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1967-2006(1	17,699.09	
270	21-04594		PCS-175	20078	B SILANGAN	LOT	RES	E-008-02574	INCENTIVE CONRADO ET A 108 MARIANO ST STA ANA SAN MATEO RIZAL	1997-2006(1	16,055.47	2*561 / 10.3 1983
271	21-04722-0	J-4-4-A-(	LRC-PSD-71407	50035	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-00165	AVERION, CONRADO 3-4 A LAKE ST SAN JUAN M M	1978-2006(1	1,066,161.18	118344 / (6/29/1965
272	21-05759	25	"	450	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-10091	UMALA REMNANTS CO INC BORKE BLDG ESCOLTA MANILA	1989-2006(1	18,205.50	
273	21-0576*	15	LRC PCS-3	450	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-04199	PACIFIC BANKING CORP "8TH FLR PACIFIC BANK BLDG AYALA AVE MAKAT	1993-2006(1	16,135.56	283662 / 1/26/181
274	21-05823	22	4	407	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-1005	MAPA, LUISA M "" SOUTH BAY EW DR. TAMBO PNQUE C+	1995-2006(1	11,833.20	166052 / 10/30/*5
275	21-0587*	14	" LRC PCS-0003	431	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-0526(	CHINGCUANGCO, MILAGROS R - 140 E GOL FORBES ST STA CRUZ MANILA	1997-2006(1	13,552.42	249953 / 10/19 19*8
276	21-0***	""	"RC PCS-5323	545	Batasan Hills	LOT	RES	E-139-0566*	BAUTISTA, MA SOCORRO MH MITO JAMISON	1978-2006(1	42,349.26	242437 / (12/19 19*8
									15 MONTEVERDE CONDO XAVIER ST SAN JUAN M M			
277	21-08515-(**	**		433	FAIRVIEW	IMP	COM	D-041-05506	QUIBAL, EVANGELINE FAIRVIEW PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER QC	1987-2006(*	266,833.43	
278	21-10005	28		400	FAIRVIEW	LOT	RES	E-041-04384	EAST FAIRVIEW PARK REGALADO BDLG MANDALUYONG C**	1971-2006(*	53,035.14	
279	21-10210	58		421	FAIRVIEW	LOT	RES	E-041-04081	EAST FAIRVIEW PARK REGALADO BDLG MANDALUYONG CI	1994-2006(*	33,660.00	
280	21-10291			550	FAIRVIEW	LOT	RES	E-041-04262	EAST FAIRVIEW PARK - REGALADO BDLG MANDALUYONG CI+	1978-2006(*	52,567.23	
281	21-10720		60-LRC-PCS-8124		FAIRVIEW	LOT	RES	E-041-02212 / D-041-04011	ZURBANO, ADELAIDA ET AL - LT 850 FAIRVIEW PARK SUBD QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1) 2000-2006(1)	83,063.08	86746 / (5/3/19
282	21-***94-000-1-00		2*		FAIRVIEW	IMP	COM	D-041-10370	FERNANDEZ, EDWIN R - L21 FAIRVIEW AVE CR CAMARO AVE QC	1998-2006(*	680,670.76	
283	21-13255-000-1-005		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16474	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	36,835.53	
284	21-13255-000-1-007		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16471	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	36,835.53	
285	21-13255-000-1-008		4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-15220	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1988-2006(*	28,279.13	
286	21-13255-000-1-009		4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16475	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	36,835.53	
287	21-13255-000-1-010		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13531	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	36,835.53	
288	21-13255-000-1-012		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13832	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1991-2006(*	36,835.53	
289	21-13255-000-1-013		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13833	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(*	20,942.81	
290	21-13255-000-1-015		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13835	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	36,835.53	
291	21-13255-000-1-016		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13836	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(*	20,942.81	
292	21-13255-000-1-017		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13837	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	36,835.53	
293	21-13255-000-1-019		4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16472	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	36,835.53	
294	21-13255-000-1-02*		4		Commonwealth	IMP	RES	D-023-10332	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(*	29,853.03	
295	21-13255-000-1-026		4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16226	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(*	39,745.75	
296	21-13818 / A	22	13-PCS-11864	400	Commonwealth	LOT	RES.	E-023-07014 / D-023-09912	PINTACASI, EMMANUEL S & LORNA O 73 LISZT ST IDEAL SUBD COMMONWEALTH Q C	1999-2006(1-2) 1999-2006(1-2)	91,678.62	149106 / (2/5/1976
297	21-14650 / A	10	10	270	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-06906 / D-023-15030	BUTED, JOSELITO MITO SOBA - 66 MARIVELES ST QUEZON CITY	1998-2006(1) 1999-2006(1)	38,834.36	
298	21-15255	1	2 (LRC) PSD-146873	445	B SILANGAN	LOT	RES	E-008-02109	BADONG TRADING INC - 973 RONQUILLO ST QUIAPO MANILA	1999-2006(1)	14,664.48	305847 / (10/24/1983)
299	21-15269	6	2	400	B SILANGAN	LOT	RES	E-008-02134	RUFINA DEV CORP - 1109 MARIA OROSA ST ERMITA MANILA	1981-2006(1)	16,500.00	185970 / (1/29/197*
300	21-15624	16	2 LRC-PCS-16831	300.00	Batasan Hills	Lot	Res	E-139-05142	Bidate, Juanito Mito Elena - 34 South Maya Drive, Philam Homes QC	2001-2006(1-2)	12,852.00	215261 / 11/19/1975
301	21-16042-000-1-001	8	26 (LRC) PCS-16831		Batasan Hills	IMP	RES	D-139-16312	VILLAMOR, MELCHOR ET AL - C/O NATIONAL STEEL CORP BUENDIA AVE MAKATI CITY	1998-2006(1)	111,248.33	
302	21-16050-000-1-002	20	27(LRC)PCS-16831		Batasan Hills	IMP	COM	D-139-17352	FILINVEST LAND INC LIT FAIRWEATHER - COR LIT ELGON ST FILINVEST QC	1998-2006(1)	1,922,265.49	
303	21-16

No.	Property Index #	Lot	Block	Area	Barangay	Kind	Cls	Tax Dec #	Declared Owner (Address)	Years	Amount	TCT No./Date
171	18-00611 / A	8	3	647	CULIAT	LOT	RES	E-024-03643 / D-024-07432	PENA, LILIAN M - E RODRIGUEZ SR AVE CUBAO QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1) 2000-2006(1)	150,310.46	66704 / (9/11/1992)
172	18-02179	7	20	378	Pasong Tamo	LOT	RES	E-001-03935	SANTOS, ROBERTO B. - 262 SAN RAFAEL BN MIGUEL MANILA	1994-2006(1)	15,715.40	171045 / (11/25/1971)
173	18-02181	9	20-PSD-22609	380	Pasong Tamo	LOT	RES	E-001-03951	ERMITANIO, LEON C. - HAPIGPIT AGUSAN DEL NORTE	1993-2006(1)	11,434.20	146506 / (10/31/1969)
174	18-03343 / A	1-A	25 PSD-E6028	601.4	BAHAY TORO	L / I	RES	E-011-03029 / D-011-12323	MABANAG, ANGELITA C. - 22 REAL ESTATE ST GSIS VILL QUEZON CITY	1985-2006(1) 1987-2006(1)	240,091.02	327307 / (1/31/1985)
175	18-05903	3	PSD-2901	500	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES	E-122-00197	VILLAROMA, LINA - 71 FELIX MANALO CUBAO QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	13,515.00	56040 / (5/23/1961)
176	18-00953 / A	3397-C-8	LRC PSD-30881	300	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES.	E-122-00235 / D-122-07990	VENZON, FELIPE C. - 47 MARIQUIT ST MANOTOLO SUBD BAESA Q C.	2001-2006(1) 1994-2006(1)	372,846.48	73472 / (12/5/1965)
177	18-10371-000-1-001	578-A-8	PSD-54359		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES.	D-122-23578	SARMIENTO, RODOLFO B. & R C. - 23 MILEGUAS ST. TORES SUBD. TSORA Q C	2001-2006(1)	95,822.46	
178	18-13595	684-E-1-A	LRC PSD-58707	601	CULIAT	LOT	RES	E-074-05540	ANSELMO, REMEDIOS S. - 13-A RD PAGASA QUEZON CITY	1985-2006(1)	52,202.30	180939 / (10/4/1972)
179	18-14781	1	4(LRC)PSD-16265	353.00	Pasong Tamo	Lot	Res	E-081-07309	SAF Associates Realty & Builders - 168 Josefa Drive, San Juan, MM	1997-2006(1-2)	20,739.48	248134 / 8/22/1978
180	18-17352-000-1-002	1	22		Pasong Tamo	Imp	Res	D-081-12608	Joaquin Rene - L1 922 Sampaguita cor Mapayapa, QC	1998-2006(1-2)	157,857.59	
181	18-21982	29	4 PCS-04-001052	120	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES	E-122-01098	RAMOS, ERNESTO C. MITO FLORDELIZA T - NIA VILL BANLAT QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1)	4,112.64	339761 / (1/28/1986)
182	18-22416-000-1-001	6	14PSD-13-016457		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES.	D-122-10552	SIMON, FELAMOR D - PAMPLONA CENTRO CAGAYAN	1996-2006(1)	10,064.68	
183	18-22439-000-1-001	10	15		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES.	D-122-25188	TADENA, BAYANI C - 30 AGANAN ST NIA VIL T SORA QC	1991-2006(1)	20,549.46	
184	18-22805	5	1 PCS-13-000334	288	TANDANG SORA	LOT	RES	E-122-00999	URBAN PROJECTS DEV CORP - 280 TUAZON ST QUEZON CITY	1985-2006(1)	38,818.50	325369 / (12/3/1984)
185	18-22843-000-1-001	22	2		TANDANG SORA	IMP	RES.	D-122-08081	URBAN PROJECTS DEV. CORP - 280 TUAZON ST. QUEZON CITY	1989-2006(1)	29,803.54	
186	18-27870	17	PCS-13-001021	303	Pasong Tamo	LOT	RES	E-081-04760	GUIDOTE, MICHELINE & MA PAZ DELOS SANTOS - 3587 PARAISO STA MESA MANILA	1998-2006(1)	19,650.26	107685 / (5/4/1004)
187	18-28334	2	PCS-13-001255	248.00	Tandang Sora	Lot	Res	E-122-11163	Bodilla, Oscar antu Heydoe - 69 Engineering St., GSIS Vil Proj 8, QC	1991-2006(1-2)	19,138.70	377738 / 3/7/1988
188	18-01331	26	5 FLS-1756-D	251	GULOD	LOT	RES.	E-043-03149	DIAZ, AMADO C & CECILLIA DIAZ - 404 HULO BLISS CORONADO ST MANDALUYONG	1986-2006(1)	5,505.60	332921 / (7/9/1985)
189	18-01489	429-B	PSD-456	3209	Bagbag	LOT	RES.	E-005-02607	FALCON KNITTING AND TEXTILE COMPANY - 201 DEL MONTE AVE. QUEZON CITY	2001-2005	46,662.18	380621 / (6/8/1988)
190	18-01626	537-B-1	PSD-1945	5000	STA LUCIA	LOT	COM	E-114-02305	TRANSUNION CORP - 331 SEN GIL PUYAT AVE MAKATI CITY	1990-2006(1)	1,152,397.50	353347 / (1/8/1987)
191	18-02469	243-A-1	(LRC) PSD-40136	601	GULOD	LOT	RES.	E-043-00675	DEVELOPMENT BANK OF RIZAL - 526 SAMSON RD. CALOOCAN CITY	2000-2006(1-2)	9,349.50	192760 / (9/24/1973)
192	18-02473-000-1-002	243-E	FLS-267		GULOD	LOT	RES.	D-043-03936	MARQUEZ, ROSARIO - 63 SAN LUIS ST GULOD NOVA QUEZON CITY	1994-2005	48,743.25	
193	19-05012-001	169-B-1-B-2	LRC-PSD-57423	500.00	San Bartolome	Lot	Res	E-097-02878	Bartolome, Prudencio D - 218 P Dela Cruz St., San Bartolome, QC	1994-2006(1-2)	36,006.00	65914 / 3/11/1992
194	19-05356-000-1-001	457-A-2			BAGBAG	IMP	RES.	D-005-05403	BALBRIGIT, JULITA - BAGBAG NOVA QUEZON CITY	1997-2006(1)	40,730.30	
195	19-05947-000-1-001	9	3-LRC-PSD-89000		San Bartolome	IMP	RES.	D-097-14803	ESGUERRA, ZENAIDA P. - 35 GAMA ST RT GONZALES VILL. QUEZON CITY	1985-2006(1-2)	34,458.42	
196	19-05971-000-1-001	1	4		San Bartolome	IMP.	RES	D-097-14269	SALVADOR, TERESITA - 48 GAMA ST RT GONZALES BN BARTOLOME Q.C.	1980-2006(1)	214,485.74	
197	19-06088	15	4	240	San Bartolome	LOT	RES	E-097-04187	USI, EMILIA T. - 157 SAN ISIDRO ST. MASANTO PAMPANGA	1956-2005	18,516.60	195756 / (1/16/1974)
198	19-06662	3	9 LRC-PSD-11576	265.00	San Bartolome	Lot	Res	E-097-04022	Quinotbo, Emiliano S - 1740 A. Rivera St. Tondo, Mln	2001-2006(1-2)	11,353.46	287978 / 3/21/1983
199	19-06777	5	15 LRCPCS-11976	205	San Bartolome	LOT	RES	E-097-04000	SOLID HOMES - 76 SOUTH AVE. QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1-2)	15,408.30	
200	19-06780	2	16 LRC PCS-11976	676	San Bartolome	LOT	RES	E-097-03998	TAN, JOSE CARLOS A. - 53-A AGUDO ST CALOOCAN CITY	1997-2006(1-2)	49,645.44	245581 / (5/28/1978)
201	19-10020-000-1-003	15	3		SAUYO	IMP	COM	D-105-10509	POWER TECH CORP - SAUYO RD MANCHESTER IND. SUBD SAUYO Q C.	1997-2006(1-2)	3,121,164.51	
202	19-10124	13	2 PCS-04-000811	200	STA LUCIA	LOT	RES.	E-114-00365	G &N REALTY CORP. - 1240 BATANGAS ST STA CRUZ MANILA	1993-2006(1-2)	17,664.40	287066 / (4/15/1982)
203	19-13353 / A	3-B	(LRC) PSD-345816		San Bartolome	LOT	RES.	E-097-00842 / D-097-12071	TRINIDAD, PONCIANO C ET AL - 1169-B EDSA BAL. QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1-2) 1960-2006(1-2)	12,334.38	371192 / (11/14/1987)
204	19-14664	11	19 PCS-13-001225	132	BAGBAG	LOT	RES	E-005-00720	BACULI, APOLINARIO M/TO DAPROSA - L11 D19 SAMPAGUITA ST. SAN PEDRO NOVA. Q C	1990-2006(1-2)	11,051.88	10259 / 11/27/1969
205	19-17113	673-A-2	PSD-13-018647	37585	Sauyo	LOT	RES.	E-105-02672	TRANSUNION CORP - 331 SEN GIL PUYAT AVE MAKATI CITY	1996-2006(1)	2,412,421.42	40334 / (9/8/1991)
206	20-00013	13	1-LRC-PSD-9707	512	Pasong Putik	LOT	RES	E-060-00726	ENRIQUEZ, GUILLERMO R & RACQUEL - MALIGAYA PARK 1 NOVA QUEZON CITY	2001-2006(1)	16,498.98	158270 / (8/21/1970)
207	20-00104	23	9 LRC PSD-9707	670	Pasong Putik	LOT	RES	E-060-00330	CORDERO, ROGELIO P M/TO TERESITA J - 5804 SIERRA MADRE COR ARAYAT MANDALUYONG	2001-2006(1)	21,551.22	295211 / (12/27/1982)
208	20-01375-000-1-003	26			NOVA PROPER	IMP	COM	D-071-01779	MAGAT, VICTORINO ET AL - RAMIREZ ST NOVA QC	1997-2006(1)	917,034.47	
209	20-01445-000-1-002	69-B-6	LRC PSD-5280		STA MONICA	IMP	COM.	D-115-07104	TRINIDAD, NICOLAS M ET AL - 1011 QUIRINO HIWAY NOVA QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	222,514.77	
210	20-01642-001-1-001	155-A-2	LRC-PSD-244057		Nagkaisang Nayon	IMP	COM.	D-069-09370	TONDO LUMBER CORP. - GEN LUIS NOVA QC	1996-2006(1)	379,845.35	
211	20-01644-000-1-005	155-B			Nagkaisang Nayon	Imp	Ind	D-069-06239	Ayala Integrated Steel Mfg Co Inc - 166 Gen Luis St., Nova, QC	1987-2006(1-2)	2,331,106.58	
212	20-01655	172-B		5132	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	IND.	E-069-04827	TEE, MARY ET AL - CAPRI NOVA QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	700,009.73	190580 / (5/9/1973)
213	20-01751-1004-052	3	LRC-PSD-103		Ka'gayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11564	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1980(3-4) 2006(1-2)	14,608.44	12776
214	20-01751-1004-058	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11570	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1959-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	12782 / 8/21/1995
215	20-01751-1004-074	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11585	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1958-2006(1-2)	17,738.82	12798
216	20-01751-1004-089	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11592	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1969-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	12804 / 8/21/1995
217	20-01751-1011-021	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-13756	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1958-2006(1-2)	17,738.82	13554 / 8/21/1995
218	20-01751-1011-089	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-11202	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	2001-2006(1-2)	11,478.06	13052 / 8/21/1995
219	20-01751-1013-001	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10770	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1993-2005(1-2)	15,651.90	13767
220	20-01751-1013-034	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10799	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1959(3-4) 2006(1-2)	14,608.48	13600 / 8/21/1995
221	20-01751-1013-036	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10709	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1998-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	13804 / 8/21/1995
222	20-01751-1013-055	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10901	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	13821 / 8/21/1995
223	20-01751-1014-016	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10822	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1959-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	13840 / 8/21/1995
224	20-01751-1014-025	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10831	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	13849
225	20-01751-1014-028	3	LRC-PSD-103		Ka'gayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10834	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	13852
226	20-01751-1014-044	3	LRC-PSD-103		Kalgayahan	Imp	Res	D-046-10840	Plenma Property Holdings Corp - 166 Salcedo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati	1999-2006(1-2)	15,651.90	13858
227	20-02057-003-1-001	681-D	LRC-PSD-28066		NOVA PROPER	IMP	COM	D-071-02621	SI, CHONG ET AL - 249-250 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	1991-2006(1)	1,527,275.60	
228	20-02727	594-1-5-B-27	PSD-10516	400	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES	E-069-02360	BUENAVENTURA, MARTIN L - NOVALICHES QUEZON CITY	1986-2006(1)	26,111.22	120034 / (3/6/1988)
229	20-02876-000-2-003	171-C-1-A-1			Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09443	PHIL LEAD CORP - 144 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	1989-2006(1)	330,765.28	
230	20-02876-001-2-005	171-C-1-A-2	(LRC) PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09412	WOODIRON MFG CORP -146 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	1978-2006(1)	170,816.25	
231	20-02876-001-2-006	171-C-1-A-2	(LRC) PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09413	WOODIRON MFG CORP -146 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	1980-2006(1)	163,999.53	
232	20-02876-001-2-007	171-C-1-A-2	(LRC) PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09414	WOODIRON MFG CORP -146 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	1981-2006(1-2)	107,325.45	
233	20-02876-001-2-011	171-C-1-A	2 LRC PSD-31287		Nagkaisang Nayon	MACH	IND	D-069-09459	WOODIRON MFG CORP -146 GEN LUIS ST NOVA QC	1969-2006(1)	172,582.71	
234	20-02909	7	3 PCS-1387	431.9	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES.	E-069-06000	MERCADO, EMILIANO ET AL - TS CRUZ SUBD RM 18 NOVALICHES QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1)	25,111.22	331257 / (5/15/1985)
235	20-03044-000-1-001	4	10 PCS-1387		Nagkaisang Nayon	IMP	RES	D-069-12316	ASUNCION, WILLIE - LAKANDULA ST TS CRUZ SUBD NOVA QC	1996-2006(1)	26,353.24	
236	20-03055	12	11-PCS-1387	411.4	SAN AGUSTIN	LOT	RES.	E-095-01749	VELASCO, GUILLERMO & NATALIA TRINIDAD - 2 AGUINALDO ST TS CRUZ SUBD NOVA. Q C	1991-2006(1)	37,045.60	160590 / (12/20/1965)
237	20-03112-000-1-001	17	4		SAN AGUSTIN	IMP	RES	D-095-04534	RICAFRENTE, CONCHITA - MOLAVE ST NOVA HOMES BN AGUSTIN Q C.	1982-2006(1)	24,640.50	
238	20-03145-000-1-001	11	15		SAN AGUSTIN	IMP	RES	D-095-04874	BELL, ALICIA - 59 BUENDIA PASAY CITY	1993-2006(1)	73,891.86	
239	20-03267	21	(LRC) PSD-26303	249	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES.	E-069-01424	SOLOMON, JESUS M/TO PILAR D - 39 LINAO ST STA MESA HEIGHT QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1)	9,605.22	352837 / (12/8/1986)
240	20-03369	RD LOT 3	PSD-00092	675	KALIGAYAHAN	LOT	RES	E-046-03806	DIMEBON REALTY CORP FCI BLDG DASMARINAS MANILA	1993-2006(1)	7,929.23	34016
241	20-03412	17	3-FLS-1757-D	200.00	Sta Monica	Lot	Res	E-115-00069	Vistan, Florendo O 32 Gen Wood St. SFDM QC	1995-2006(1-2)	16,340.40	228825 / 3/8/1977
242	20-03771	751-B	FLS-2274-D	861	STA. MONICA	LOT	RES	E-115-03288	RURAL BANK OF MUNTINLUPA (RIZAL) INC - MUNTINLUPA CITY	1995-2005(1)	55,854.86	219939 / 7/7/1970
243	20-05677	318-D-22	(LRC) PSD-40609	314	Nagkaisang Nayon	LOT	RES	E-069-05251	TORRES, CONRADO S & AMOR V - RM 504 DONA MERCEDES BLDG QUIAPO MANILA	1974-2001	28,595.47	
244	20-07275-000-1-001	23	13		Pasong Putik	IMP	RES	D-060-20936	CAAYON, MARINET - L23 B13 CHESTERFIELD ST QC	1999-2006(1)	127,810.76	
245	20-05844	5	1	200	North Fairview	LOT	RES	E-143-01871	LAGRO DEV & REALTY CORP - 3/F MBE BLDG. AYALA MAKATI CITY	1973-2006(1)	22,354.60	
246	20-16593	3	73-LRC-PCS-18345	400	North Fairview	LOT	RES	E-143-02357	BC REGALADO & CO INC - 166 EDSA GREENHILLS MANDALUYONG CITY	1950-2006(1)	34,369.00	212044
247	20-17525	26	134	300	G LAGRO	LOT	RES	E-142-05271	NEW NORTH FAIRVIEW REALTY & DEV INC - 166 EDSA GREENHILLS MANDALUYONG CITY	1998-2006(1)	26,316.00	42045 / (4/5/1991)
248	20-18325-000-1-001	34	167		G LAGRO	IMP	COM	D-142-06308	TOWER PLACE BILLIARD & GRILL RESTAURANT - B1ST L34 MINDANAO CR COMMONWEALTH Q C.	1986-2006(1)	2,503,702.38	
249	20-22558-000-1-001	1-B-1 & A-1	LRC-PSD-396462		NOVA PROPER	IMP	COM	D-071-02037	ACCREDITED TRADING CORP - 23 DONA ROSARIO ST NOVA QUEZON CITY	1991-2006(1)	1,318,210.14	
250	20-22675	LOT-2-A	LRC-PSD-299849	200	SAN AGUSTIN	LOT	RES	E-095-02267	GAPAS, PEDIN & PACIFICA CORTES - 206 INT KAHILAON MANDALUYONG CITY	1995-2006(1)	16,585.00	274406 / (12/2/1980)
251	20-23045-000-1-002	18	6 PCS-04-00455		SAN AGUSTIN	IMP	COM	D-095-06076	FLORES, SEGUNDINA - L16 S6 DONA MARIA ST COR DN ALEJANDRO Q C	1984-2006(1)	31,564.49	
252	20-20003	86-F	PSD-13-002168	2,840.00	Sta Monica	Lot	Res	E-115-02220	De Lanson, Aurora Guanzon et al - 370 Quezon Ave, QC	1992(c) 2006(1-2)	50,350.01	352970 / 12/8/1986
253	21-00693	11	15	463	HOLY SPIRIT	LOT	RES	E-138-04431	LUNA, ADELINA - 28 KENTUCKY ST SFM QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	32,113.86	155912 / (8/7/1970)
254	21-01385	15	4 PSD-3088	1413	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-05403	CRISTI, GREGORIA - SAN MATEO RIZAL	1982-2006(1)	88,795.89	87615 / (3/7/1963)
255	21-02559	5	7 PSD-53030	455	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-03768	DATU, VIVIENNE G - 99 TIMOG DILIMAN QUEZON CITY	1958-2006(1)	23,947.56	293555 / (8/10/1982)
256	21-02578	4	10 PSD-53030	5706	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-05713	JOSE E. DESIDERIO & CO INC - 81 DOMINGO SANTIAGO SAMPALOC MANILA	1982-2006(1)	271,304.94	
257	21-02632-003	6-D	PSD-2895	452	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-03099	PROVIDENT SAVINGS BANK - RM 401 COMBANK BLDG. AYALA AVE. MAKATI CITY	1997-2006(1)	26,555.88	336978 / (11/5/1985)
258	21-03256	70-D-7	PSD-2201	2,384.00	Commonwealth	Lot	Res	E-023-00344	Bahea, Eduardo P 24 K-6th St., Kamias, QC	1958(3-4) 2006(1)	44,588.36	188351 / 3/29/1973
259	21-03262-004	1-E	(LRC) PSD-53903	337	B SILANGAN	LOT	RES	E-038-05436	ANAO, BRUNA D - 342 A LAKE SAN JUAN M M	1990-2006(1)	9,110.82	105574 / (5/18/1966)
260	21-03521	17-B-1-A	(LRC) PSD-56195	5000	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01273	FRANCISCO, LUIS F 195 CALAAHAN CALOOCAN CITY	2000-2006(1)	50,490.00	105088 / (5/12/1966)
261	21-03619	43-B-25-A	PSD-4879	484	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-03238	IMPERIAL, CELIA A. 1340 STO SEPULERA ST PACO MANILA	1983-2006(1)	38,726.42	208858 / (8/23/1975)
262	21-04135	756-C-2	PSD-20598	15000	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-06591	URBAN POOR HOMEOWNERS ASSO INC - AREA 1-A LUZON AVE. OLD BALARA QUEZON CITY	1926-2006(1)	405,450.00	73161 / (11/20/1992)
263	21-04489	2-D-9	LRC-PSD-74726	25526	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-00189	SERRANO, EMMA R 32 P JACINTO ST CAL CITY	1967-2006(1)	889,593.24	
264	21-04531	1	1 PCS-1996	429	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01603	PEREZ PRESENTACION - RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1968-2006(1)	13,943.41	
265	21-04568		3 PCS-1996	560	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01611	PEREZ PRESENTACION - RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1968-2006(1)	16,074.04	
266	21-04570	4	3 PCS-1996	482	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01612	PEREZ PRESENTACION - RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1968-2006(1)	18,359.65	
267	21-04581	14	3 PCS-1996	425	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01614	PEREZ PRESENTACION - RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1958-2006(1)	16,327.76	
268	21-04584	17	3 PCS-1996	424	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01617	PEREZ PRESENTACION - RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1938-2006(1)	18,260.15	
269	21-04585	18	3 PCS-1996	421	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-01618	PEREZ PRESENTACION - RM 531 MADRIGAL BUILDING ESCOLTA MANILA	1957-2006(1)	17,690.08	
270	21-04594	1	PCS-175	20076	B SILANGAN	LOT	RES	E-008-02574	VICENTE, CONRADO ET AL 708 MARIANO ST STA ANA SAN MATEO RIZAL	1997-2006(1)	78,005.47	121561 / (8/31/1967)
271	21-04732-001	3-A-4-A-2	LRC-PSD-71407	50005	M BALARA	LOT	RES	E-067-00195	AVERION, CONRADO L 314 A LAKE ST SAN JUAN M M	1978-2006(1)	1,065,181.16	118324 / (5/29/1987)
272	21-05759	25	1	450	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-10003	MANILA REMNANTS CO INC - BORKE BLDG ESCOLTA MANILA	1989-2006(1)	18,295.50	
273	21-05787	15	3 LRC PCS-393	450	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-04199	PACIFIC BANKING CORP. - 18TH FLR PACIFIC BANK BLDG AYALA AVE MAKATI	1993-2006(1)	16,135.56	283552 / (11/26/1981)
274	21-05823	22	4	457	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-10053	MAPA, LUISA M - 15 SOUTH BAY VIEW DR. TAMBO PNQUE CITY	1995-2006(1)	11,833.20	166052 / (6/30/1971)
275	21-05872	14	7 LRC PCS-3003	431	Commonwealth	LOT	RES	E-023-05265	CHINGCUANCO, MILAGROS R - 140 A GOV FORBES ST STA CRUZ MANILA	1987-2006(1)	10,552.42	249053 / (10/19/1978)
276	21-06036	11	LRC PCS-5323	545	Bucsan Hills	LOT	RES	E-139-05061	BAUTISTA, MA SOCORRO RN M/TO JANSON 15 MONTEVERDE CONDO XAVIER ST. SAN JUAN M M	1979-2006(1)	42,340.26	242437 / (12/19/1978)
277	21-06513-000-1-001	35	-		FAIRVIEW	IMP	COM	D-041-05506	QUIBAL, EVANGELINE - FAIRVIEW PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER QC	1987-2006(1)	266,833.43	
278	21-10005	28	9	433	FAIRVIEW	LOT	RES	E-041-04364	EAST FAIRVIEW PARK - REGALADO BDLG. MANDALUYONG CITY	1971-2006(1)	53,035.14	
279	21-10210	20	13	400	FAIRVIEW	LOT	RES	E-041-04081	EAST FAIRVIEW PARK - REGALADO BDLG. MANDALUYONG CITY	1954-2006(1)	33,660.00	
280	21-10251	7	17	421	FAIRVIEW	LOT	RES	E-041-04262	EAST FAIRVIEW PARK - REGALADO BDLG. MANDALUYONG CITY	1976-2006(1)	52,567.23	
281	21-10720 / A	1	60-LRC-PCS-8124	550	FAIRVIEW	L / I	RES	E-041-02212 / D-041-04011	ZURBANO, ADELAIDA ET AL - L1 D50 FAIRVIEW PARK SUBD QUEZON CITY	2000-2006(1) 2000-2006(1)	83,063.88	66746 / (5/3/1993)
282	21-11794-000-1-001	21	27		FAIRVIEW	IMP	COM	D-041-10370	FERNANDEZ, EDWIN R - L21 FAIRVIEW AVE CR. CAMARO AVE QC	1998-2006(1)	689,670.76	
283	21-13255-000-1-005	7	4		M BALARA	IMP.	RES	D-067-16474	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE. QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	36,835.53	
284	21-13255-000-1-007		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16471	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC. - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	36,835.53	
285	21-13255-000-1-008		4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-15220	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC. - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1988-2006(1)	28,279.13	
286	21-13255-000-1-009		4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16476	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	36,835.53	
287	21-13255-000-1-010	1	4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13931	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	36,835.53	
288	21-13255-000-1-012	7	4		M BALARA	IMP	RES.	D-067-13932	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1991-2006(1)	36,835.53	
289	21-13255-000-1-013		4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13933	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	20,942.81	
290	21-13255-000-1-015	7	4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13935	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	36,835.53	
291	21-13255-000-1-016	7	4		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-13936	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	26,942.81	
292	21-13255-000-1-017		4		M BALARA	IMP	REB	D-067-13937	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	36,835.53	
293	21-13255-000-1-019	7	4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	RES	D-067-16472	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	36,835.53	
294	21-13255-000-1-021	7	4		Commonwealth	IMP	RES	D-023-10632	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1992-2006(1)	29,853.03	
295	21-13255-000-1-026	7	4 PCS-1827		M BALARA	IMP	REB	D-067-16020	ASILO DE CLERIGOS FILIPINOS INC - LUZON AVE QUEZON CITY	1984-2006(1)	39,745.76	
296	21-13818 / A	32	13-PCS-11804	400	Commonwealth	L / I	RES.	E-023-03014 / D-023-09912	PINTACASI, EMMANUEL S & LORNA O - 23 LISZT ST IDEAL SUBD COMMONWEALTH Q C	1999-2006(1-2) 1999-2006(1-2)	91,678.62	148106 / (2/5/1998)
297	21-14690 / A	10	10	270	Commonwealth	L / I	RES	E-023-05006 / D-023-15030	BUTED, JOSELITO M/TO SONIA - 66 MARIVELES ST QUEZON CITY	1999-2006(1) 1999-2006(1)	38,834.30	
298	21-15255	1	2 (LRC) PSD-146873	446	B SILANGAN	LOT	RES	E-008-02106	BADONG TRADING INC - 673 RONQUILLO ST QUIAPO MANILA	1995-2006(1)	14,064.48	305047 / (10/24/1983)
299	21-15269	6	2	400	B SILANGAN	LOT	RES	E-008-02134	RUFINA DEV CORP - 1109 MARIA OROSA ST ERMITA MANILA	1981-2006(1)	16,500.00	165970 / (3/29/1973)
300	21-15624	16	2 LRC-PCS-15031	300.00	Bolinao

UN votes for ceasefire resolution

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without the consent of the government of Lebanon and no authority other than that of the Lebanese government.

- Member states urged to consider making appropriate contributions to Unifil.
- All states to take necessary measures to prevent sale or supply to any entity or individual in Lebanon of arms and materiel.
- Disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon.
- Although the draft resolution emphasizes the need for the unconditional release of the two Israeli soldiers whose July 12 capture by Hezbollah sparked the conflict, that call is not included in the list of steps required for a lasting cease-fire.

'Badly shaken faith'

Resolution 1701, drafted by the United States and France, was passed after days of bitter wrangling at the UN over the text and frantic shuttle diplomacy.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan chastised the UN Security Council for not acting sooner to halt the conflict and stop civilian suffering, saying this had "badly shaken the world's faith in its authority and integrity."

"I would be remiss if I did not tell you how profoundly disappointed I am that the council did not reach this point much, much earlier," he said, adding:

"It is absolutely vital that the fighting now stop."

But US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice cautioned against expecting the resolution to end all violence, saying: "The conditions of a lasting peace must be nurtured over time."

Lebanon's acting foreign minister, Tarek Mitri, expressed profound doubts about the likelihood of the resolution being able to end the war, and was scathing in his criticism of Israel.

"For a month now, as ... the international community continues to watch, Israel has besieged and ravaged Lebanon, creating a humanitarian and environmental disaster," he said.

Mitri characterized the weeks of Israeli artillery and aerial bombardments against his country as "a strategy of terror" and "an obscenely disproportionate and unjustifiable" retaliation for Hezbollah rocket attacks on northern Israel.

"The Lebanese are not confident in Israeli distinction between 'defensive' and 'offensive,'" he said. "The end to military operations should be unqualified."

Relief officials denied access

Relief officials said Israel was still denying access for aid convoys to distressed civilians despite the resolution.

Lebanon accepted the resolution and officials said the Cabinet, which includes two Hezbollah loyalists, would confirm this at a meeting later in the day. Hezbollah, a Shiite Muslim guerrilla group, has made no comment on the UN vote.

Olmert told US President George W. Bush that he backed the resolution and "thanked him for his assistance in keeping Israeli interests in mind at the Security Council," an Israeli official said.

The Israeli prime minister will urge his Cabinet to approve the resolution at a meeting on Sunday, but an Israeli official said the Army would not stop its Lebanon offensive before the Cabinet session.

Aid agencies grappling with a humanitarian crisis created by the war said the UN vote had made no difference yet.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said Israel had denied safe passage to aid convoys anywhere in Lebanon and refused to allow a ship bearing aid from Cyprus to sail through a naval blockade.

"We have not gotten concurrence from the Israeli Army on any convoys at all, north, south or anywhere in the country," said WFP spokesperson David Orr. "Despite the political agreement, we have ground to a halt."

Relief agencies have been seeking access to an estimated 100,000 people trapped in the south. The mayor of Tyre said on Friday the city could run out of food in two days.

Litani river

An Israeli Army spokesperson said the new ground operation could extend up to the strategically important Litani river, which runs up to 30 kilometers from the border.

One military official said the operation could last weeks and even extend beyond the Litani.

Israeli combat jets were also in action early Saturday across other parts of Lebanon, pounding northern roads leading to Syria and destroying a power plant in the major southern city of Sidon.

At least 15 people were killed or injured when fighter-bombers hit a village near Lebanon's southern port city of Tyre, police said.

Troops in tanks and armored vehicles were rolling toward hilltops overlooking the river, where they were meeting fierce resistance from Hezbollah fighters, Lebanese police said.

Hezbollah also fired a salvo of 20 rockets at Israel, police said.

The Litani has served as a strategic limit for Israel's operations in Lebanon since it first invaded its northern neighbor in 1978, leading to a long and bloody occupation that ended only six years ago.

Blocked border crossing

A top military official had said four divisions—between 24,000 and 40,000—would take part in the expanded ground push.

Israeli warplanes also fired missiles near Lebanon's northern border with Syria early Saturday, severing access to the last border crossing that had remained open through the month-long war, security officials said.

The Arida crossing, about 2 km from the Mediterranean coast, was the last escape route for besieged Lebanese and for humanitarian aid entering the country from Syria.

The UN has a depot for relief supplies at the site.

Israeli jets targeted the highway linking Arida with the northern city of Tripoli, the officials said.

The highway was heavily damaged in Qleiaat, blocking the passage to and from Arida. Qleiaat is about 8 km from the border.

There are still believed to be many illegal paths used to cross between the Lebanon and Syria.

Israel has lost 38 civilians and 82 soldiers. At least 1,061 people, mostly civilians, have died in Lebanon. *Reports from Reuters, AFP and AP*

GMA supports Resolution 1701

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO EXpressed her full support for the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and reiterated her appeal for overseas Filipino workers caught in the crossfire to come home.

"We are one with the world in wishing that the United Nations resolution would pave the way for early cessation of hostilities," her spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, said in a statement.

Bunye also said that despite the reluctance of longtime Filipino workers in Lebanon to leave, "the government will not cease in facilitating the evacuation of our workers, and we shall strive to ensure that all [of them] are kept out of harm's way no matter what the situation may be on the ground."

At a briefing in Malacañang, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos said the government would continue the evacuation and repatriation of OFWs even with the passage of the UN's Resolution 1701.

Conejos said the President's directive to the Philippine crisis team in Lebanon and Syria under the leadership of Roy Cimatu, her adviser on Middle East affairs, was to continue implementing her Aug. 2 order for the mandatory evacuation of all OFWs in Lebanon.

According to Conejos, the evacuation will continue because there is no assurance that the ceasefire will be strictly observed by the warring camps.

New mission

Conejos said the crisis team had been ordered to dispatch a new mission to locate and evacuate Filipinos stranded in Tyre, Sidon and other parts of southern Lebanon.

The team has also been told to strictly monitor the implementation of the ceasefire in order to undertake quick reaction especially if the fighting escalates, he said.

In a pool interview on Friday with Malacañang reporters in Cebu, Ms Arroyo said the chances for a ceasefire were decreasing "every day."

"Let us not take unnecessary risks," she said.

The President aired the assurance that the government was utilizing all resources and avenues for the evacuation and repatriation of OFWs.

She called on Congress to immediately pass the 2006 supplemental budget, which includes a P1-billion standby fund for the crisis team in Lebanon.

Slowdown expected

But Vice President Noli de Castro said the passage of the UN resolution was expected to slow down the repatriation of OFWs from the war-torn country.

Saying that the government's Task Force Lebanon had earlier noted a sharp decrease in the number of OFWs choosing to be repatriated, De Castro said that with the expected enforcement of the UN resolution, more workers would think twice about coming home.

"As it is, only a few Filipinos are going to our evacuation centers in Beirut and in Damascus, Syria," De Castro told the INQUIRER.

He cited a flight chartered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that could not leave because it had room for 450 passengers but only 200 Filipinos were left on the list of those to be repatriated.

The IOM had committed to bring home by plane at least 10,000 Filipino workers free of charge, according to De Castro.

Closure of land route

The Vice President said the decrease in the number of Filipino evacuees could also be a result of the closure of the land route from Beirut to Damascus and Litakia in Syria by the Israeli Defense Force starting yesterday, as it strengthened its position before the UN resolution takes effect.

He said that according to reports of Philippine officials in Lebanon, long columns of Israeli tanks, troops and armored personnel carriers streamed over the border early Saturday, and Israel launched air strikes on several cities.

'Embarrassing'

In De Castro's radio program, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan," Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis called from Damascus to deny radio reports here that at least seven Filipino women had been raped at the evacuation center in Syria.

Seguis said it was not possible for the crime to happen because there were other evacuees at the center which was being guarded 24 hours a day.

"This is embarrassing," he said, adding that Philippine officials had lost face before the IOM "because no such thing has happened."

Ban on fluids in all int'l flights

By Volt Contreras and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS YESterday widened the security alert in airports around the country.

Aviation officials announced that not only US-bound aircraft but all international and domestic flights will be covered by the ban on hand-carried fluids or gels, with some exceptions.

Taking effect Monday, the new restriction strictly applies to travelers heading for the US but it is slightly relaxed for other flyers - obviously to the relief of duty-free shop operators.

Non-US-bound passengers may still bring into the cabin liquid or gel products that were bought in the airport after their final security check, according to Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority.

Cusi clarified that hand carry items not included on the list of prohibited articles are still allowed inside the aircraft cabin. The prohibited articles, besides gels and liquids, also include sharp objects and lighters.

The expanded ban came two days after an alleged terror plot to blow up trans-Atlantic planes in midair was uncovered by London police and set off security alarms at airports across the planet.

Cusi said all passengers must keep liquid or gel substances in their checked-in luggage, but they may still bring prescribed medicines or infant formula into the cabin.

Infant formula, medicines

Such medicines or formula, however, will still be checked prior to boarding, hence medical personnel will be included among the security teams, he explained.

Those who must take medicines while in flight should present the corresponding doctor's prescription to be "interpreted" by the medical personnel during the check, he said.

Infant formula will also be subject to scrutiny, like by having it tasted, Cusi added.

Speaking in Cebu, President Macapagal-Arroyo called on countries in the Asia-Pacific region to draw up a convention on counterterrorism to thwart terrorist attacks.

"We cannot deal with the threats alone. We must work with other countries and international institutions if we are determined to successfully address and eliminate them," Ms Arroyo said in a speech before delegates at the 10th anniversary meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Advisory Council (ABAC).

'Teamwork against evil'

Ms Arroyo cited an urgent need for a convention on counterterrorism when the the Association of Southeast Asian Nations meet in December.

"By pushing for a convention on counterterrorism, we will advance teamwork in the fight against evil," she said. "By engaging our neighboring region, the Shanghai Cooperation Council nations, we will widen our reach."

Ms Arroyo had broached last December the idea of linking up with the Shanghai Cooperation group, otherwise known as the " Shanghai Six"— China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

She had previously called on authorities to coordinate with international counterparts on new terrorist plots and to tighten security measures in airports, seaports and crowded public transport terminals.

Phone call from Pakistan ...

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day, as well as ones for this Friday, apparently a test-run to see whether they could smuggle chemicals aboard in soft-drink containers.

The paper didn't report the flight's destination, but United has flights from Heathrow to New York, Washington, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco and Seattle.

One of those detained was believed to be a young woman in her 20s with a 6-month-old baby.

Man central to plot

Before the crackdown started, Pakistani intelligence agents had been monitoring telephone calls and e-mails of British al-Qaida operative Rashid Rauf for some time before arresting the man they say was central to the plot.

Rauf's arrest prompted an unidentified associate of his to make a call from Karachi to another suspect subsequently arrested in Britain.

"This telephone call intercept in Karachi and the arrest of Rashid Rauf helped a lot to foil the terror plan," a senior Pakistani security official said on condition of anonymity.

The message intercept prompted British police to move in on the conspirators, long under watch.

It wasn't clear exactly when the call was intercepted, but officials said Rauf was nabbed about a week before the plot was busted in Britain on Thursday.

Global probe

Rauf appears to have been the operational planner and is believed to have connections to al-Qaida in Afghanistan, officials said.

Investigators on three continents worked to fill in the full, frightening picture of the plot, tracking the money trail and seizing more alleged conspirators.

Plotters under 30

Many of those arrested in Britain are young, including one who is just 17. Only one appears to be over 30. And three of the suspects were converts to Islam.

The Pakistani government has confirmed the arrests of seven suspects, and intelligence officials said 10 other people were detained in Pakistan on Friday to determine their links to the alleged plot and where they had received financial support or any training.

Pakistan is both a key US-British ally in the antiterror campaign, and a hotbed of Islamic radicalism and likely hiding place for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

British Home Secretary John Reid said officials were confident the main suspects in the plot were in custody.

Others at large

For his part, Townsend said that "it's pretty clear that in this case, we don't have everybody."

The British government released the names of 19 of the 24 arrested in Britain—many apparently British Muslims of Pakistani ancestry—and froze their assets. One of the 24 detainees later was freed.

The record of financial transactions, along with telephone and computer records, may help investigators trace more people in the alleged plot.

"Think of it as a river—you look upstream to find the source, and downstream to find out where the money is going," said Cliff Knuckey, former chief money laundering investigator for Scotland Yard.

American authorities were looking for any US links in the conspiracy. Hundreds of FBI agents checked possible leads the past few weeks, including what two US counterterrorism officials said were calls the British suspects placed to several US cities.

A tip from British-Muslim

Britain kept its threat assessment level at "critical," indicative of an imminent attack. Extraordinary security measures continued at British airports, although the backlog of passengers eased from Thursday's chaotic conditions.

The British say their inquiry began months ago—prompted by a tip from within the British Muslim community after the bloody July 7, 2005, terror bombings of the London transit system, The Washington Post reported.

New information underlined how close they were to mounting attacks.

There were signs preparations stepped up recently. One of the houses raided by British police this week had been bought last month by two men in an all-cash deal, in a neighborhood where houses cost of $300,000 neighbors reported.

Suspected ringleader

It was unclear how the alleged plotters met, or who the ringleader was, although suspicion fell on the only one identified who is over 30—Shamin Mohammed Uddin, 35, of east London.

A teenage neighbor of suspect Assad Sarwar, 26, who lived with his parents in High Wycombe, said Sarwar had become increasingly strident after the London transit bombings, in which four suicide bombers killed 52 people.

"He started talking about terrorism and acting like it's OK to blow up people," said Nawaz Chaudhry, 17.

At least one "martyrdom" tape, the type left by suicide bombers, was found in the British raids, a US law enforcement official said.

One of those arrested, Amin Tariq, 23, reportedly worked as a security guard at Heathrow Airport, raising fears that security at the airport might have been breached.

Many of those arrested in Britain lived near each other but it is not even clear that they all worshipped in a single mosque, though it does appear that some knew each other that way.

Under Britain's toughened antiterrorism laws, suspects can be held for up to 28 days without charge. *AP, AFP, NYTNS, Reuters*

Executive jet: Only way to go in a time of terror

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Then fly executive jet.

Once the preserve of the super-rich, executive jets offer an alternative for busy executives or wealthy travellers who want to bypass crowded airport terminals by using quiet, smaller airports.

Analysts say a suspected plot to blow up transatlantic airliners flying from Britain to the United States which sparked travel chaos on Thursday has underscored the appeal of executive jets, which typically seat fewer than 20 passengers.

Not only for fabulously rich

Still often associated with the fabulously wealthy and famous film stars such as actor John Travolta who pilots his own Gulfstream, the industry has widened its potential market with pre-paid cards for flying hours, fractional ownership schemes and a new class of smaller, far cheaper models dubbed "very light jets" (VLJs) due to hit the market by 2008.

Two people flying from one of London's Biggin Hill airport to Toulouse in southern France, for example, would pay about 5,200 pounds (P500,000) to charter a private jet on a round trip versus less than 400 pounds (P38,000) on a budget airline.

"We are looking at security queues being considerably longer and time is money for businessmen so that pushes them towards going on executive jets," said Geoff van Klaveren, an airlines analyst at Exane BNP Paribas in London.

Sheer congestion at major airports is already helping spur sales of such planes, which contributed to record levels for general aviation aircraft in the first half of 2006 which hit more than 1,800 planes worth almost $9 billion (P460 billion).

Business jet sales faltered after a record 784 planes delivered in 2001 but are surging this year, on track for a new record with 415 sold by mid-year, said Katie Pribyl, director of communications at the Washington-based General Aviation Manufacturers Association.

Airports were already overstretched and according to travel information firm OAG, an estimated 7 million transatlantic passengers will now face delays or cancellations in August if current levels of heightened security at US and UK airports persist.

The executive jet sector offers a network of 5,000 airports to bypass congested major airports as well as various financing alternatives to the outright purchase of a business jet.

Automaker Honda Motor Co. and Brazilian planemaker Embraer are two top firms gearing up to enter the new VLJ market segment. *Reuters*

Romulo-Suu Kyi meeting dim

YANGON—FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo has held talks with military leaders of Burma (Myanmar), state media said Saturday, amid dimming prospects for a meeting with detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi.

Romulo, on a three-day trip to Burma, met with the junta's reclusive leader, Senior General Than Shwe, Friday at the country's new administrative capital of Nay Pyi Taw, 320 kilometers north of Yangon.

He also held talks with Prime Minister Soe Win and his Burmese counterpart, Nyan Win, the state-run daily New Light of Burma said, without further detail.

The Philippines, which assumed ASEAN's rotating leadership last month, said earlier that Romulo would seek a meeting with the 61-year-old Nobel peace laureate, who has spent 10 of the last 17 years under house arrest in Yangon.

But Romulo is scheduled to leave Burma late Saturday and a spokesperson for Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party told AFP that the foreign secretary was not likely to see her during the visit.

"It was part of ASEAN's goodwill visit. I don't think he will see her," said NLD spokesperson Lwin.

"We can only assume that the visiting foreign secretary has discussed the matter of Aung San Suu Kyi with the military leaders," he said.

Romulo's trip, originally planned in early July, followed Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's surprise one-day visit to Burma on Aug. 2.

Burma, the Philippines and Thailand are members of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a grouping that also includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

But military-ruled Burma, which joined ASEAN in 1997, has embarrassed the regional bloc by refusing to introduce democratic reforms.

It's junta bloodily crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988 and two years later rejected the results of national elections won by Aung San Suu Kyi's NLD. *AFP*

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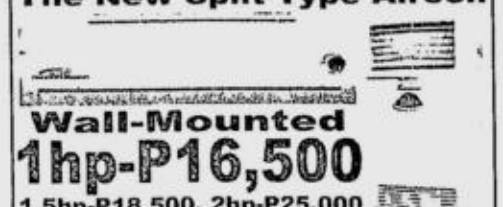
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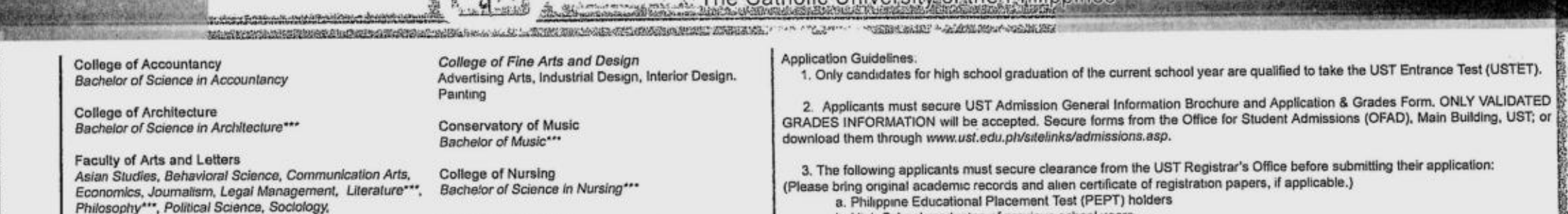

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OPINION

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Haunted by Osama

EDITORIAL

THE NEWS FROM LONDON LAST THURSDAY WAS chilling, not least because it seemed all-too-familiar. Another massive conspiracy to explode commercial airplanes in mid-air; another band of extremists, seduced by visions of violence.

Even the technological novelty of the plot—the bombs were to use liquid explosives, smuggled into airline cabins in innocent-seeming packages like tubes of gel—wasn't really new. Al-Qaida first tested the system in late 1994, when terrorist Ramzi Yousef left one such bomb on Philippine Airlines Flight 434. (The bomb exploded, killing one passenger and injuring others, and blasting a hole in the plane; expert piloting, however, brought the plane down safely, in Okinawa.)

Thus, the sense of déjà vu is palpable, because we've seen this plot before, up close. It was Yousef and company who dreamed up the nightmare of Operation Bojinka, an ambitious attempt to explode several US or US-bound aircraft in mid-air in 1995. They did the dirty work of translating their dreams into tangible reality—tangible enough to convert bottles of contact lens solutions into nitroglycerine containers—right in Manila; only an accidental explosion exposed their plot and brought the cops rushing in. Yousef escaped; the plan died. But the strategic lesson for terrorists was there for the taking, and led directly to the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States: Innocent packages can turn a commercial airplane not only into a political statement but also into a breathtaking weapon.

The sense of foreboding triggered by the news from London is also deep, because like the discovery of the Bojinka plot in the Josefa Apartments in Malate, some luck helped British authorities make Thursday's breakthrough. To be sure, security analysts around the world recognize that it was exceptional intelligence work that led British authorities to the plot (a score of conspirators have already been arrested in the United Kingdom, and a handful in Pakistan). But five years after the 9/11 firestorm, and over a decade after Operation Bojinka, the capability of the al-Qaida terror network to insinuate itself into the vulnerabilities of the international air travel system remains potent. It is a continuing struggle to plug the system's leaks, and luck still plays a heavy part.

It is the sense of dismay prompted by the news from London, however—a realization that the international community has misjudged the continuing war on terror—that is most jarring. We are reminded, yet again, that after the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, we have lost our way. That US-led military action was supported by a wide international alliance, reminiscent of the Gulf War coalition-building masterminded by the first George Bush.

The invasion of Afghanistan had the advantage of necessity: Osama bin Laden, who ordered the Sept. 11 attacks, was in fact hiding in the country's porous caves. The invasion of Iraq—and the quasi-organized chaos that marked the post-invasion period—was an entirely different matter.

In part this was because the US government and its lead partner in the so-called coalition of the willing, the Blair government, sold the war on Iraq as a large and indispensable part of the solution to the problem of terrorism.

If it were, then the answer to the essential question ought to be simple and to the point: Are we safer now than before the Iraqi invasion?

The answer, however, is as muddled as the quagmire in Iraq. The brutal dictatorship of Saddam Hussein has been removed, yes; but American forces turned out to be even less prepared for governance than the suffering Iraqi people were for liberation. The result: a faction-riven country teetering on the edge, torn between the airy oases of democratic promise and the abysses of civil war.

The US-led coalition has spent an enormous amount of money in the fighting in Iraq. Has all that crippled the al-Qaida network? On the contrary. The chaos in Iraq has added to its number. Besides, there was never a necessary causal connection between the Sept. 11 strikes in the United States and the Saddam regime. Iraq is, sadly, only a diversion.

While money and thousands of lives continue to disappear down the Iraqi black hole, Osama's zealots come together in London, not necessarily to visit the Queen.

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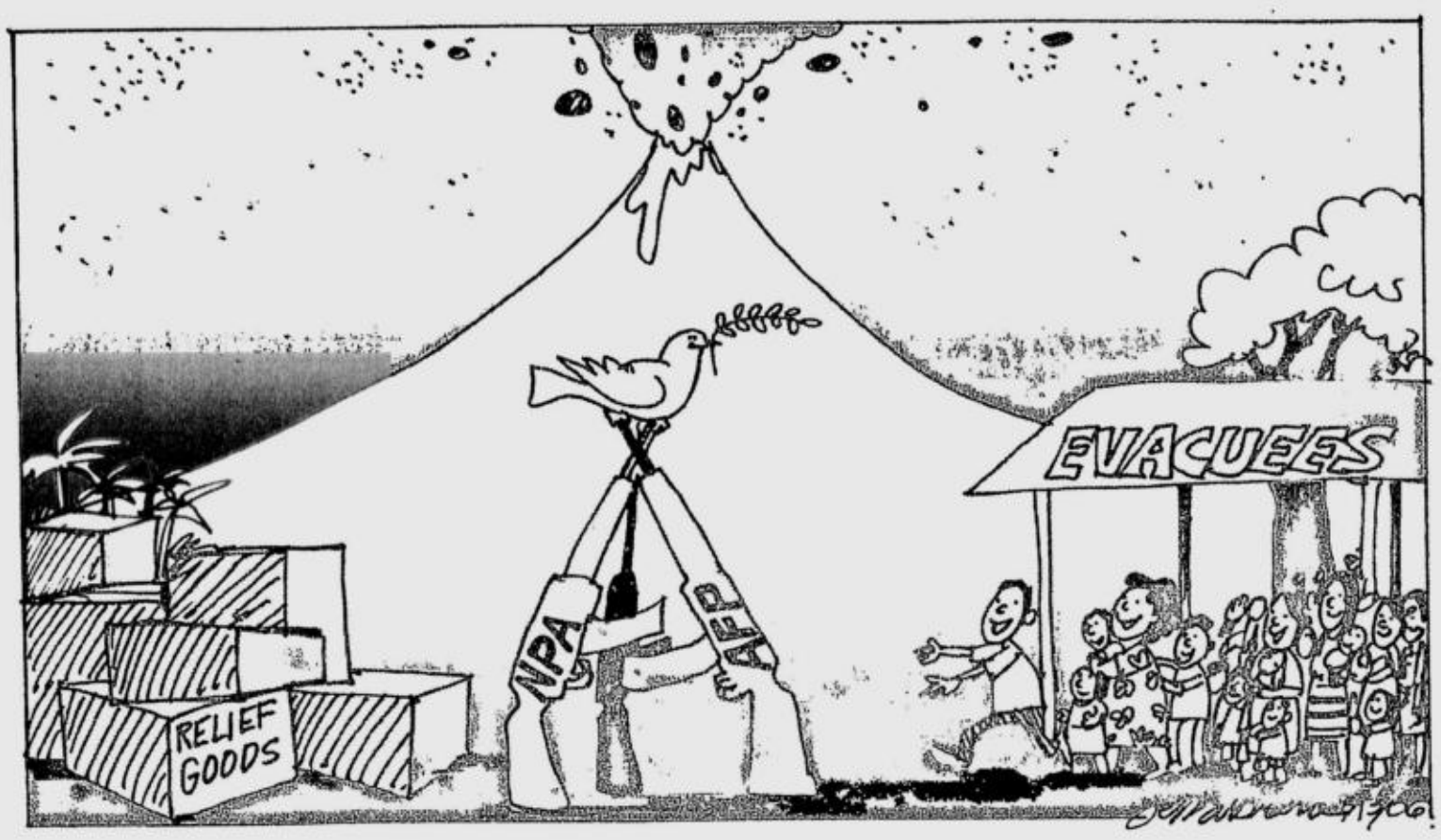


A nation of servants

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'M AS DISTURBED AS MANY OF US ARE over the turmoil in Lebanon that has claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians, mostly women and children. Both Israel and the Hezbollah may be at fault in their deadly confrontation, but this is not the time for judgment. What is needed now is an immediate end to the hostilities and the reasoned resolution of the bloodied issues at the conference table and not in the barricades of war.

As a citizen of the Philippines, my particular concern over this unfortunate conflict is the safety and welfare of our countrymen in that troubled region. I understand that there were more than 30,000 of them there when the conflict erupted some weeks ago, but a substantial number of them have come back to our country through the efforts of our government and the assistance of private parties.

All this is welcome news, but not to the still goodly number of our countrymen who remain helpless in Lebanon and are desperately hoping for their early or eventual escape. For some time, there were worrisome reports of the unavailability of funds for their evacuation until the government took more concrete steps that have relieved the worries of families here for their stranded relatives.

Even now, there remain some questions about the supposedly missing Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) funds that the Senate is poised to investigate. The problem is that the executive officials it has subpoenaed have so far snubbed the probe, which the senators cannot jump-start. The Palace stand is a continuing application of its EO 464 that the Supreme Court had annulled, but the Senate has done nothing so far except announce its displeasure.

Shades of Bolante and the Garcia tapes!

But the point I really want to stress in this article is something else. President Macapagal-Arroyo has been crowing about the improved revenue of the nation from the income of our overseas workers, as if she herself actually earned it. She is in fact partly to blame for what she grandly calls "our new heroes," as I will presently explain.

Let me make it clear at the outset that I have nothing against the OFWs for deciding to work abroad, as thousands of our countrymen have done in Lebanon. They are among the millions of Filipinos spread all over the world, working in various capacities and earning adequate income they cannot earn in their own country. It is their condition abroad and how it has affected the reputation of the Philippines that I will now discuss.

Some of our countrymen (and women) abroad have dignified offices as doctors, teachers, scientists, businessmen, engineers, architects, accountants and other professional or clerical positions. Others are laborers, mechanics, drivers, gasoline attendants, messengers, gardeners and in other fairly independent employment. But the great majority of our migrant workers do mostly servile jobs as housemaids, caregivers, washroom attendants, waiters, bellhops, street sweepers and the like.

They do respectable work, to be sure, and are paid comfortable wages, but they are—servants. There are all over the world—in the United States, in Canada, in Latin America, in London and Paris and Rome, in the Middle East, in Australia, even in Nigeria, and in such sister Asian countries as Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. And let's not forget Hong Kong, where the park in Kowloon is crowded and littered on Sundays by the housemaids from the Philippines.

They seem to be well-treated and happy in that familiar meeting place, but their situation may not be the same as in other foreign places where Filipino women are also serving as domestics. According to a Filipino maid from Lebanon, she was treated by her foreign employer as less than a human being and more as a beast of burden, like the Negro slaves of old. Let us hope that this woman who was forced to work from dawn till late at night and was niggardly fed "like a dog" was not relating a common experience of our overseas Filipino maids.

It is especially distressing that some of such servants are college graduates and are probably better educated than their employers, but have accepted menial work for lack of an appropriate livelihood in their own country. Even professionals have left these shores for better pay abroad, like the medical board topnotcher who is now a well-paid nurse in an American hospital. I have a civil engineer cousin who has been living a comfortable life in New Jersey as a bell captain in a big hotel.

I grieve to think that some 50 years ago; we were among the most respected countries in Asia, with a proud citizenry, a booming economy and an enticing future. What happened? Why are many of our people longing to be servants in other lands lest they starve in their own country? Why has our government not provided them with suitable and adequate jobs in the Philippines, where they can live happily and proudly with their own kin and kind and not as abject lackeys in some distant land?

Call me a cynic and a fault-finder. But I blame our leaders, especially our Presidents past and present, for not exercising the vision, and the caution, and the wisdom to keep our country from becoming what it is today in the eyes of the world—a Nation of Servants.

Bread

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A PASTOR AND a salesman who lived in the same subdivision. The pastor died. About the same time, the salesman took a business trip to Florida. When he got there, he sent a telegram to his wife to let her know he had gotten there safely. By mistake, the message was delivered to the wife of the deceased pastor. The telegram read: "Arrived safely; heat here awful."

* * *

Do you believe in eternal life? Do you believe in life after death? "Amen, Amen I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life." In today's Gospel (Jn. 6, 41-51), the Lord gives Himself as the living bread from heaven, and He says that whoever eats this bread will live forever. Are you eating the right kind of bread? The Lord reminds us today to seek not only earthly bread for our physical nourishment but also to seek that which gives us spiritual nourishment, and that which leads us to new life.

* * *

The recent discovery of the plot to blow up US-bound planes from Britain has led authorities to further tighten security measures for travelers. A lot of commodities like liquids, gels, lotions and electric devices are now prohibited on board planes. For the safety and well being of everyone, some things have to be discarded. In the same manner, for our spiritual safety and well-being, perhaps, it would be good for us to discern what we need and don't need in our journey into eternity. Indeed, why carry with you things that will just destroy you and others with you?

* * *

It's amazing how some people just can't let go of things that they know are not good for them. Think of people who hold on to vices or forbidden relationships. Think of people who hold on to money and power by any means, whatever the cost. The Lord reminds us today to focus on eternity. The Lord opens a window, a new horizon for us who are often so engrossed in our little screens. He points the vast open skies to us who are miserably focused on the earthly road we are treading.

* * *

What "bread" are we feeding our children? For many households, the most available, the most convenient "bread" is that which comes from television. Here's a modern-day translation of Psalm 23: "The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want, it makes me lie down in the sofa, it leads me away from the faith, it destroys my soul. It leads me in the path of sex and violence for the sponsor's sake. Yeah, though I walk in the shadow of Christian responsibilities, there will be no interruptions, for the TV is with me. Its cable and remote control—they comfort me. It prepares a commercial before me in the presence of my worldliness; it anoints my head with humanism and consumerism. My coveting runneth over, surely laziness and ignorance shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house watching TV forever."

* * *

In connection with the question about the kind of "bread" we are feeding our children, parents would do well today to also ask themselves about the source of the money they use to buy the bread. If the source is good money—the fruit of your honest labor and hard work—congratulations! But if the source is dirty money—the fruit of your lying, cheating and stealing—shame on you, for that means there are children out there who are deprived, or hungry, or even orphaned because of your greed.

* * *

For those who insist on earning dirty money for the sake of the children, remember dirty money is poison. Don't give and don't leave behind poison to your children!

* * *

Speaking of eternity, last Aug. 11, we accompanied with our prayers into eternity Fr. Hermenegildo "Togs" Togonon, SVD. He would have been 70 years old this Sept. 9. He spent most of his priestly ministry in Occidental and Oriental Mindoro. He gave up earthly "bread" for the sake of the Gospel. Only God knows what this missionary did and sacrificed for others. "*Hasta la vista*!" was the favorite greeting of this simple, humble, loving priest. Indeed, Father Togs, hope to see you again, in eternity.

* * *

Here's an invitation to join the Psychogenetics & Gestalt Therapy Retreat at SVD Tagaytay on Aug. 26-27, 2006. Contact Fr. Ed Fugoso at 0971-5414330. A similar retreat will be held in Cebu on Sept. 16-17. Contact Star at 0920-9500345.

* * *

Another invitation from Dr. Raymond Espinosa to watch Disney's "Aladdin Jr." at Onstage Greenbelt I (887-0710) on Aug. 19, 4 p.m. for the benefit of the Brain Foundation of the Philippines, an association of Neurosurgeons and Neurospecialists. This organization helps indigent neurological patients in our country.

* * *

"One of the things that makes God different from people is that God is always available to listen." (Anonymous) Share your prayer requests and personal intentions, text FJREQ<space><NAME><space><REQUEST> and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind us to seek the right kind of bread for us to eat, and to feed others. Amen.

Asean at 39

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST WEDNESDAY WAS THE 39TH FOUNDING anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nations. On Aug. 8, 1967, five countries in the region—Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—signed the Asean Declaration in Bangkok, Thailand, creating a new community of nations promoting peace, economic growth and social development in the region.

The signatories to this historical document were Adam Malik of Indonesia, Tun Abdul Razak Bin Hussein of Malaysia, Narciso Ramos of the Philippines, S. Rajaratnam of Singapore and Thanat Khoman of Thailand.

It was in the course of attempting to mediate some regional disputes among Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines that Khoman first broached the idea of forming an organization for regional cooperation. Malik, one of the "angry young men" in Indonesia's struggle for independence, readily agreed with him. Shortly thereafter, the foreign ministers of the five countries decided to proceed with the new grouping. Incidentally, it was Malik who suggested the name Asean for the new organization. At a beach resort in Bang Saen some distance southeast of Bangkok, practicing what has been described as "sports-shirt diplomacy" the ministers were able to hurdle their differences and they came up with the Asean Declaration. In the words of Khoman at the signing ceremonies, "the goal of Asean is to create, not to destroy." Khoman is the last surviving member of the Founding Fathers of the Asean.

Since then, the membership in the Asean has expanded to 10—with the inclusion of Brunei Darussalam in 1984, Vietnam in 1995, Laos and Burma (Myanmar) in 1997 and Cambodia in 1999. East Timor currently holds observer status.

This year is a particularly significant year for the country. The Philippines recently took over as chair of the Asean Standing Committee (ASC) after Burma decided to give up its turn at the helm of the grouping in the face of conflicts with the United States and the European Union.

In December, the Philippines will host the 12th Asean Summit—only the second time for our country to hold this most prestigious of Asean events. The first time, 19 years ago, was in December 1987. We hosted a summit in Manila in November 1999 but it was in the category of an informal event.

The approaching summit which will be held in Cebu City brings back some difficult memories. In 1987, I was posted in Jakarta as preparations for the 3rd Asean Summit in Manila were ongoing. It was a time of instability. There were serious security concerns; the country had just gone through the first coup attempt led by Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan in August. In our minds, the most vivid picture of the 1987 coup is a burning GHQ building in Camp Aguinaldo, with Honasan being taken out by helicopter. Malacañang Palace had also come under attack from rebel elements, resulting in a number of civilian casualties, including presidential son Noynoy who was slightly wounded.

As a result, there were serious concerns among our Asean colleagues—whether or not the proposed summit in Manila should push through. There were suggestions to postpone the meeting to a later date but that would have been interpreted as weakness on the part of the Philippine government. After much discussion and consultations among the Asean member-nations, it was decided to push through with the December summit but under the thickest security blanket one could imagine. Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus asked for suggestions and recommendations from our embassies in Asean, and I recall mentioning that instead of the usual welcoming ceremonies held at the airport for the arriving heads of governments, perhaps, it would be better to move these formalities to a more secure location.

The Philippine Plaza was chosen as the main venue for the meeting and all the delegations were billeted there. In fact, the hotel was declared off-limits to all other guests and entering the complex was strictly controlled by a special task force formed for the occasion. The arrival ceremonies were staged at the hotel premises and there was a minimum of fanfare. Just a few miles off Manila Bay, a special force of Indonesian marines were kept onboard Navy vessels, ready to jump into action should any untoward incident develop during the meetings. The Indonesian defense minister, Gen. Benny Murdani—incidentally, a Catholic in an overwhelmingly Muslim nation—was the man in charge of Indonesian security preparations. This situation gives our readers an idea of the security jitters that everyone experienced in those days when a freely moving Colonel Honasan could not be apprehended by military and police authorities.

As December 2006 approaches, perhaps, we should remember December 1987 and keep in mind that the simplest incident involving a lapse in security can have serious repercussions for an Asean Summit.

* * *

Last Tuesday was also the 73rd birthday of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo. Bert has always been one of the finest public servants in our country. In the military, he will be remembered for his concern and solicitude for veterans and their dependents with his authorship of Republic Acts 6948 and 7696, which gave our men in uniform additional benefits.

* * *

Personal note: Gloria Balmaceda-Gozum who wrote a book on her father "Cornelio Balmaceda, A Legacy of Honor and Integrity," provided most of my notes on her sister, Grace. Glory is married to Tony Gozum, now a gentleman-farmer in Masbate.

Cheating and profits

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

ON TUESDAY, LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO, CHAIR of the Professional Regulation Commission, will meet with the deans of nursing schools around the country. Depending on the results of the meeting, Rosero said she will decide whether to push through with the planned oath-taking of examinees who had passed last June's nursing board exams, postpone it further, or nullify the results entirely and have all 42,000 exam-takers go through the exercise again.

In an earlier meeting with the nursing deans of UP-Manila, University of Santo Tomas, University of the East and Far Eastern University, the deans were all in favor of having everyone retake the tests. "But I asked them: 'Is this the sentiment of all your students who passed?' They were not able to answer," recalls "Baby" Rosero.

The controversy over the June nursing board exams is rooted in the discovery of a "leakage" of exam questions, which were allegedly disseminated by a review center among examinees in Baguio. Protesters raised an outcry, claiming the exam irregularities have tainted the results of the test, bringing to question the qualifications of all who passed.

After hearing reports of the "leakage" in the media, Rosero says the PRC board immediately created a fact-finding committee to conduct an internal investigation. The PRC board subsequently filed administrative charges against two members of the Board of Nursing "for neglect of duty that gave rise to the leakage of test questions" and also referred the matter to the NBI for further investigation.

The PRC then "invalidated" some of the exam questions that appeared in the leaked materials and, through some statistical re-configuration, decided that the leakage in Baguio had no significant impact on the general integrity of the exam results. Thus, they released the names of passing examinees last July 19.

* * *

TO OBSERVATIONS that the PRC, which administers board exams for 42 professions, "rushed" the release of the nursing board results and "hastily" scheduled the oath-taking for Aug. 22, Rosero notes that it took the commission 27 days before releasing the June nursing board test results. "In contrast, we released the results of the CPA board test after one day, while the results of the nursing board test given last December were released after two weeks." A total of 17,871 examinees, or 42 percent, passed the test last June. Of these successful test-takers, some 6,700 took the test in Baguio. "Baguio actually reported a 36-percent passing rate, the lowest among the 11 test centers," notes Rosero.

If re-administering the test—with a brand-new set of questions—would solve all the concerns of the protesters and clean up the sullied reputation of all the passers, why won't the PRC just give in?

* * *

"WE conduct 72 exams a year," explains Rosero, who took over as acting PRC chair in January 2005 and was formally appointed that June. "Conducting the nursing exam again would mean formulating a new set of questions for the subjects in question, hiring a new set of examiners and proctors, and renting test halls, all of which would cost money and we would have to do while administering other exams."

Actually, it seems quite shocking that someone could pull off cheating on the scale of the one alleged to have occurred in Baguio, considering the elaborate measures the PRC has adopted to secure the test questions.

Each of the five examiners (for some professional tests, only three examiners are needed) are required to submit 500 test questions, classified into three categories—difficult, moderate and easy. These questions are then encoded (in a stand-alone computer) at the PRC office with the examiner present, and saved in a diskette with the examiner identified and the contents protected by a password. Using an encrypted program, the computer then selects the questions to appear in the test, and the secured diskettes (with matching police escorts) are brought to accredited printers for printing into booklets the night before the test is to be taken.

While the exam is being given, the examiners and encoders are sequestered ("we call it the '*bartolina*,'" says Rosero) in a locked and guarded (by PNP and NBI personnel) conference room, disallowed from communicating with anyone, including members of their families. For the June nursing exams, the examiners and staff were locked up for all of nine days, in exchange for which they were paid P23,000.

* * *

SO how did the alleged leak in Baguio happen?

Here's one plausible explanation. During a June 26 meeting of the Board of Nursing, examiner Virginia Madeja, one of the two members facing charges, recalled that she brought her hand-written questions to a copying center near the PRC building to be "xeroxed" before she submitted them to the PRC, since she had the habit of copying everything she wrote. It was evening and she was alone.

While she was at the copying center, the machine operator kept on transferring from one machine to another, saying the machines were malfunctioning. Meantime, a stranger insisted on staying close to her, peering at her materials. It was then that Madeja began to suspect something and decided to stop the copying, though by then about 18 pages had already been copied.

It was only when the probe into the leakage started and she got to see the leaked materials that Madeja noticed the "similarities" between some of her prepared questions and the ones distributed in Baguio.

One lesson: Not even the most elaborate security measures can foil the most determined cheaters, especially when there's lots of money to be made from desperate examinees; and schools, review centers and "fixers" are willing to profit from their desperation.

Hezbollah

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ALL OVER THE ARAB WORLD AND BEYOND, IT IS Hezbollah that is on everyone's lips these days—not the al-Qaida, not the Taliban, not the Hamas. Israel's army, the most powerful in the Middle East, is not fighting the Lebanese national army. It is fighting a militant armed group inside Lebanon that is possibly the world's best-trained guerrilla force.

The role that Hezbollah has taken for itself—that of Israel's most stubborn enemy—has shamed many leaders of the Arab League, who stood by like helpless spectators when Israel pounded Palestinians in Gaza in the beginning of July. The more Hezbollah fights, the higher its stature grows not just among the Arabs but among Muslims everywhere. While Israel seeks its total destruction, Hezbollah's goal is modest: to continue fighting Israel and its steadfast ally, the United States. Its survival is its victory.

In a world brainwashed by anti-terrorist propaganda, it has become almost instinctive to equate Hezbollah with al-Qaida, and to treat its members as no different from the fanatical disciples of Osama bin Laden who blew up the World Trade Center using hijacked passenger jets as weapons. Its notoriety in the Western world is well-founded. It is generally believed that Hezbollah pioneered suicide bombing as a mode of struggle in the 1980s. The responsibility for the October 1983 suicide truck bombing that killed 241 US marines in their Beirut barracks has been laid at the door of Hezbollah. What is not as well known, clearly because it does not quite fit its image, is that Hezbollah condemned the 9/11 attacks. It was highly critical of Bin Laden's disregard for civilian lives. When it became clear that Israel was withdrawing from Lebanon, Hezbollah stopped all suicide bombings in 1999, the year before the actual Israeli pullout. It claims not to have participated in any suicide bombing since then.

Israel entered Lebanon in 1982 to destroy Palestinian guerrilla strongholds. In the process, it gave rise to Hezbollah. From the beginning, Hezbollah's goals have been twofold: to keep Israel out of southern Lebanon, and to secure the freedom of thousands of Arabs rotting in Israeli jails. When Israel withdrew from Lebanon in 2000, the United Nations ordered the dismantling of the Hezbollah military force as a step toward normalizing Lebanese political life. Hezbollah participated in the elections, winning about 10 percent of parliamentary seats, and even gaining positions in the Lebanese Cabinet. But, even as it became part of government, it refused to give up its arms, claiming that it had to keep them as long as Israel continued to occupy a piece of Lebanese territory (the Shebaa Farms).

Originally established as the guerrilla force of the Lebanese Shiite Islamic community, and drawing direct inspiration from Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini, Hezbollah quickly metamorphosed into a coordinating center for all Lebanese underground groups opposed to foreign occupation. Far from being just the spear point of militant Islam in Lebanon, Hezbollah developed into a national liberation movement, a fulcrum of Lebanese national unity.

Hezbollah quickly earned a place in the heart of the Lebanese people as Lebanon's de facto revolutionary army. When the war ended, it became active in social development work and reconstruction. The civilian section of the movement runs hospitals, media networks and schools. They maintain programs for war widows and orphans, and those displaced by the conflict. No wonder it has been difficult to crush the Hezbollah. Far from remaining a marginal militia, it has grown into a broad social movement, performing extensive military, political and developmental functions.

The enigma of the Hezbollah captivated the University of Chicago political science professor Robert A. Pape while researching for his book on suicide bombers—"Dying to Win." He tried to find out more about Hezbollah suicide attackers. In a recent article published in the Aug. 4 issue of the International Herald Tribune, Pape recounts how he collected videos, photos and testimonials about Hezbollah's suicide bombers for the period 1982 to 1986. What did he find out about them?

"Of the 41, we identified 38. Shockingly, only eight were Islamic fundamentalists. Twenty-seven were from leftist political groups like the Lebanese Communist Party and the Arab Socialist Union. Three were Christians, including a female high-school teacher with a college degree. All were born in Lebanon.

"What these suicide attackers—and their heirs today—shared was not a religious or political ideology but simply a commitment to resisting a foreign occupation. Nearly two decades of Israeli military presence did not root out Hezbollah. The only thing that has been proved to end suicide attacks, in Lebanon and elsewhere, is withdrawal by the occupying force. Thus the new Israeli land offensive may take ground and destroy weapons, but it has little chance of destroying the Hezbollah movement. In fact, in the wake of the bombings of civilians, the incursion will probably aid Hezbollah's recruiting."

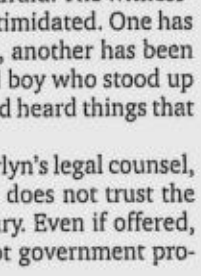
Israel and the United States are bent on crushing Hezbollah because if Hezbollah survives, it will be the model for all the scattered guerrilla groups now opposing the American occupation of Iraq. But what is emerging, after a month of continuous pounding of Lebanese towns, is that Hezbollah cannot be destroyed even if Israel kills half of the Lebanese population. Israel has set for itself a goal it cannot achieve. It has no choice but to leave Lebanon now and accept a UN-sponsored ceasefire.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

In contempt

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE



Patricia Evangelista

IT WAS A SMALL CAB, A DENTED TIN BOX WITH FLAKES of white paint falling away from the edges of the passenger door. Inside, the air conditioner fought against the dirty heat pouring in through the tintless windows. There were three of us crammed into the Kia's five-foot wide backseat—two elderly couples and a girl with a bulging backpack going from Manila to Quezon City in the stuttering noon traffic. I sat on the far side, backpack balanced on one numb thigh, knocking knees against Mr. Cadapan, who apologized even while his large body was forced to fold into an awkward hunch.

It was after their Court of Appeals hearing that I played escort to the Cadapan and Empeño couples, parents of Sherlyn and Karen, the two UP activists recently abducted by armed men. Their parents' petition is for habeas corpus, a demand for the military to produce the bodies of their daughters.

After the hearing, I saw Karen Empeño's white-haired father sitting on the floor, staring at the gray rain outside the dirt-streaked windows. A human rights volunteer crouched beside the elderly man and laid a hand on his shoulder. She told him not to worry, because they had a ride home. She told him that I would be riding with them in the cab, and that I was media and nothing could possibly happen with me around.

I smiled at him reassuringly, all the while thinking, dear God, if I'm the only protection they have, I'm the one who's worried.

It's not just the parents who should be afraid. The witnesses have been threatened, harassed and intimidated. One has woken up with a gun barrel at his throat, another has been tied and blindfolded, and the 14-year-old boy who stood up for the missing women has seen things and heard things that 14-year-old boys should not see or hear.

Lawyer Rex Fernandez, Karen and Sherlyn's legal counsel, refuses to ask for witness protection. He does not trust the government. He does not trust the military. Even if offered, the families and witnesses will not accept government protection.

A lack of faith in the military is not exclusive to certain people, or even to those in Bulacan. It is common all over the country, something that has been escalating in the last few years. I am not afraid of an abusive government—no matter what it says or how tight its grip on power. A government can be overthrown when a critical mass of people feels it has had enough. What I am afraid of is an abusive military, because no matter how indignant the citizens may be, a newspaper column, a rally and a public broadcast will not stand to the fury of gunfire and the nightmare of a blood-dimmed tide let loose.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan has not appeared in court for the last two hearings. His reason for his first absence was that he had to attend the anniversary of his battalion. And while he partied, Fernandez filed a motion to have the general cited for contempt of court.

In the last hearing, the general's lawyer presented an affidavit claiming that he was again unavailable because he was "on-call" for a possible meeting with the President. I do not see why a meeting, much less the possibility of a meeting, is an excuse for ignoring accountability. I do not believe that national security is even compromised if one Major General Palparan isn't at his office when the President calls for a meeting. What will be a threat to national security is when men accused of grave injustice circumvents due process—especially when these same men have the authority to decide on life-and-death matters.

The civilian court is higher than any institution in the country, which is why both peasant and President are at the mercy of a subpoena. The notion that no one man is above the law is fundamental in any democracy—the Hitlers and Marcoses of the world have shown how dangerous this kind of arrogance is.

In her State of the Nation Address, the President condemned political violence in the harshest of terms. Of course, she does. Of course, she must. Any democratic government has the duty to protect citizens, no matter their political persuasion, and in spite of their personal situation.

Alongside this condemnation, at the height of political killings and obscene human rights violations, the President applauds the man who is alternately called The Butcher and The Hangman. Palparan gets a medal, the military gets more funding and witch-hunts occur even in the ranks of those who are legitimate ideologues.

The condemnation of political violence remains just that, condemnation. There's little more than a few lines in a speech, a highly selective task force and the same inept police force. The Hagonoy police has turned up nothing new, even complaining that they had no idea there were witnesses—"Nobody told us!" Letters to Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, as well as Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz still remain unanswered. These very important men—their secretaries, aides and second-in-commands claimed—are busy, out, in a meeting and will call back.

And in spite of all these, the Empeños and the Cadapans have chosen to take the legal avenue and to put their trust in the judiciary. The two mothers nod off during trial, half-asleep from knocking on doors, in hopes of securing any sort of help.

The government's war on terror is a physical battle to bring down those who take up arms against the government. And so it should. But the battle is not just on one front, not just gun against gun. It is a battle for hearts and minds, for the kind of faith that allows government to exist. When people are pushed into a corner, when they lose hope, when their choice narrows down between helplessness and rage, alternatives that offer action instead of passive acceptance become attractive. It should never be that people are afraid of the government. The government should be afraid of the people.

I believe that there are wrongs that cannot be justified by any cause. I believe that to do nothing when these wrongs are committed is to condone them. I believe that human dignity is non-negotiable, and that justice must be pursued whoever the victims are.

Most of all, I believe in people—in those who stand for injustice, in those who believe in truth, in beauty, in freedom, in the white-haired man who goes to court to fight for the stolen daughter he might never see again.

* * *

For comments, e-mail the author at pat.evangelista@gmail.com

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TALK of the TOWN

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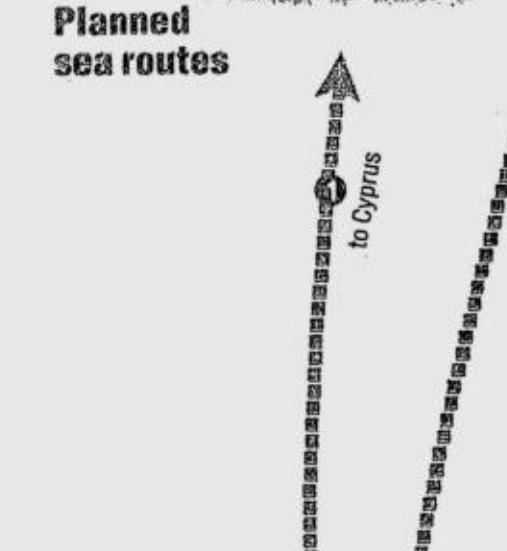
AP

ESCAPE FROM LEBANON

REUTERS

Planned sea routes



36,000 Overseas Filipino workers (mostly domestics) in Lebanon before the war

4,179 OFWs and their children repatriated to the Philippines from July 23 to Aug. 1.

2 OFWs who died in Lebanon since the war began. One fell after trying to escape from her employer to join the evacuation.

8 hours (before Israel bombs cut off this route) Land trip to Damascus, including a two-hour wait at a Syrian border checkpoint

$32 Visa fee each OFW must pay Syria

11 ½ hours Direct flight from Damascus to Manila

$150-$200 Monthly salary of Filipino domestics

$1,200 Average cost to evacuate an OFW

36 Chartered and commercial flights from Damascus and Doha to the Philippines taken by repatriated OFWs during the period.

$300,000 Cost of a chartered PAL flight

P500M Amount set aside by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) for the evacuation

P7.1B Funds of Owwa as of June 2006

SOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, OWWA AND NEWSREPORTS

Long road to Damascus

By Nikko Dizon

MARY ROSE ALDIANO HAD BEEN WORKING AS A DOMESTIC helper in Lebanon for only two months when the war broke out between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas. As soon as the bombs fell, members of the Lebanese family she was working for fled to Aley, a tourist area in upper Beirut from their home in Nabatiye (pronounced nabatiya) in southern Lebanon, taking Aldiano with them.

"My employers' friend said it was safer in Aley because it was a Christian community, which the Israelis won't destroy," Aldiano recounted.

But it wasn't enough comfort for this mother of two young children, aged 10 and 4.

"I wanted to go home. I didn't want to die. I was thinking of my children," said Aldiano, 34, a political science graduate.

A salary of $150 a month (but her contract said she should be getting $200) was not worth dying for.

Her employers, however, would not let her go unless she paid them back the $2,000 they spent to get her as their house help.

"They told me that wherever they go, I will go. That's when I got really scared. In my mind, it meant, if they died there, I would die with them," Aldiano said.

Run away

A call from her husband, Albert, on July 19 telling her of the relocation center in Sassine, Beirut, firmed her resolve to run away from her employer.

At around 3 a.m. on July 20, Aldiano slipped out of the mountain resort home they were staying in.

She was dressed only in a pair of light blue top and pajamas. She covered her head with a pink and black jacket.

She held on to a small knapsack that contained her passport, some undergarments, and a pair of clothes.

Into the woods

Aldiano decided to walk into the woods, instead of the road, to avoid being chanced upon by someone who might bring her back to her employer.

She would slip occasionally and was pricked by shrubs and leaves of trees that were similar to the pine trees of Baguio City, her hometown.

After walking for 30 minutes, Aldiano realized the path she took led to a ravine. She turned back and it took her another half hour to get to the road.

The sun was rising and every time a vehicle passed, she would hide behind the bushes or a parked car, careful not to hit it lest the alarm would sound off.

Good Samaritan

Then a sports car pulled over and a Lebanese man began to ask her in Arabic where she was headed.

"I was bloodied already because of the wounds I got from the shrubs. I was scared at first but he looked sincere and kind. He offered me a ride," she said.

Using sign language—and finally seeing a cross in the Beirut skyline—she managed to relay to the man she called her "Good Samaritan" that she wanted to get to a Catholic Church.

He brought her to a Catholic Orthodox church in Beirut, where she met another Lebanese couple who gave her food and allowed her to take a bath in their home.

The couple's son who worked for a TV news network brought her to the Caritas office in Lebanon.

Filipino nun

It was there that she met a Filipino nun, Sr. Herminia Cruz, who helped her process her papers that would enable her to return to the Philippines.

At around noon, the nun brought her to the Church of the Miraculous Medal, the relocation center in Beirut where she stayed overnight before finally joining a convoy of Filipinos, among the first to leave for Syria.

The next day, at around 10 a.m., Aldiano boarded a 35-seater white coaster.

Toward northern Lebanon, the roads were smooth and the surrounding area was devoid of the destruction that many overseas Filipino workers had seen in the south.

Nervous

"Although we were nervous throughout the trip, we also felt safe. We didn't hear any bombs exploding," she said.

But at one point, Aldiano said the convoy crossed a bridge, one side of which had been destroyed by bombs.

Two hours before reaching the border, they passed the coastline where she saw three Israeli battleships.

It took another three hours to get to the convent that served as the Filipinos' relocation center in Damascus.

"We even got lost in the desert," she said.

Her group stayed for three days at the convent before a government-chartered plane finally brought her and more than 200 other OFWs back to the Philippines.

Moving on

Now back in her native Baguio City, Aldiano said she's trying to move on and forget her experience in Lebanon.

She's checking what classes she could take at the Tesda (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) in Baguio. She has also applied for a job at a call center there.

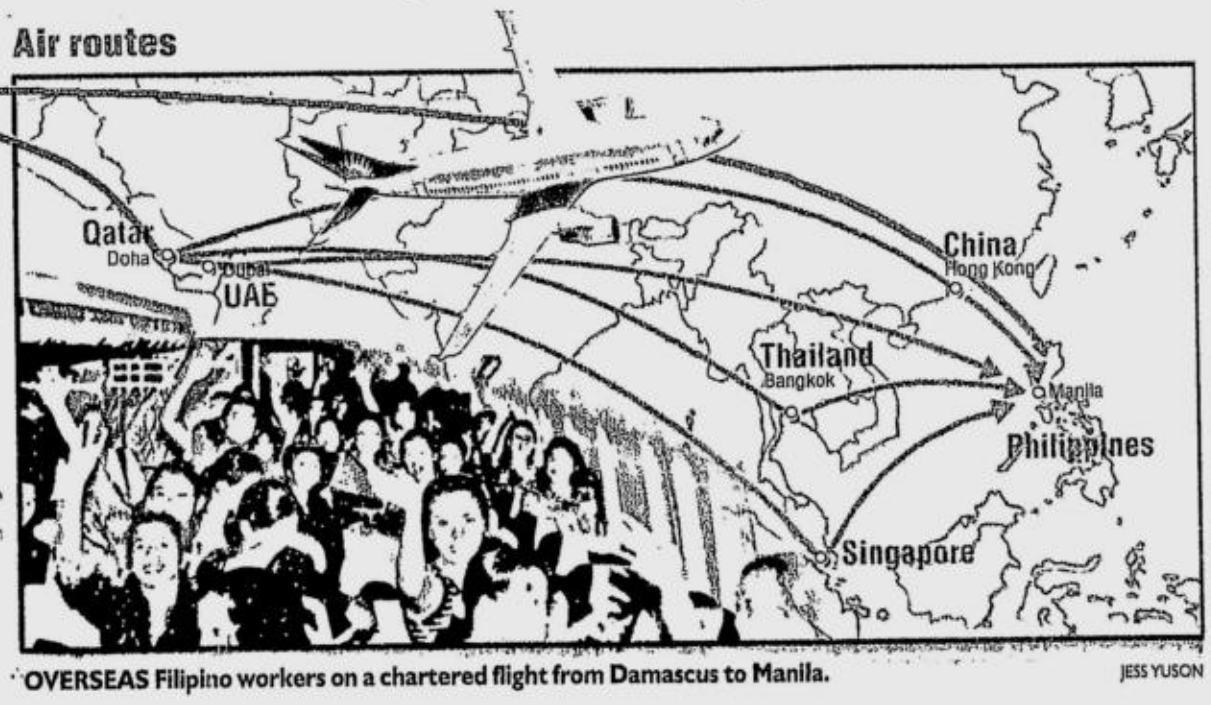
Some two weeks after Aldiano's group left, another group of OFWs tried to leave Lebanon on Aug. 4, only to turn back after Israeli bombs destroyed key infrastructure, including the main highway used by the Philippine convoy to reach Syria.

This group had to take a detour route, a longer bumpy, circuitous road that passed along the Lebanese coastline before finally reaching the Lebanese-Syrian border.

(Dizon is an Inquirer reporter covering the airport beat.)

They told me that wherever they go, I will go. That's when I got really scared. In my mind, it meant, if they died there, I would die with them

Air routes



OVERSEAS Filipino workers on a chartered flight from Damascus to Manila. JESS YUSON

INQFOGRAPHIC: LARIBA/ ERNIE SAMBO / LA MISTADES; PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Jailed kids hope for better future

By Aquiles Zonio
General Santos City

DEO DREAMS OF BECOMing a teacher because he loves to help others.

But instead of staying in school, the 17-year-old lad went astray.

When he was in Grade 2, Deo ran away from home but the reason was not clear.

He learned to live by himself, often finding some means to make ends meet. He became one of the dozens of street children in General Santos City who earned the tag "Batang Tun-og (Children of the Dew)."

Like other street children, Deo too had brushes with the law but he always got away with it.

Until six months ago.

The law finally caught up with Deo and two of his friends and they were thrown to jail for substance abuse.

Jessie and Pao-pao, Deo's friends, said life in jail was so hard they could barely stand it.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

New life

"We want to start a new life if we are given the chance," they said.

From day one of their detention, the three children said they vowed to reform if they got out.

Getting out of jail would give them a chance to reshape their lives.

"I hope we can get out as soon as possible. I want to continue my studies and become a teacher," Deo said.

On Aug. 4, luck was on their side. Judge Antonio Lubao of the regional trial court branch 35 ordered their release, along with 30 others, from the General Santos Reformatory Center in Lanton, Apopong village.

Lubao's order came after the city social welfare office asked the court to order the release of the three boys.

Rebecca Magante, city social welfare and development officer, claimed that because the reformatory center also hosts hardened criminals, it could never become conducive for minors.

The situation inside the country's prisons system is also dehumanizing, she added.

"Many of our children in conflict with the law badly need support and right motivation. Putting them in prison should be the last recourse," Magante said in an earlier interview.

The order was in compliance with Republic Act No. 9344, or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, Lubao said.

The release order said Deo and 32 other minors would be transferred to the Marcellin Home for Street Children, which is run by the Marist Brothers.

Magante said at the Marcellin Home, the minors would have a chance to undergo value formation and livelihood training to prepare them for the challenges ahead.

Anticipating his release, Deo said the transfer to the Marcellin Home would give him a chance to realize his dream of becoming a teacher.

"I really want to teach," he said.

'Many of our children in conflict with the law badly need support and right motivation. Putting them in prison should be the last recourse'

Programs, not jail, for kids

RAY DEAN SALVOSA, MANAGING director of the Consuelo Foundation in Davao City, said the passage of the juvenile justice law last April 28 did not come easy. Groups like the Consuelo Foundation had to do a lot of lobbying for support.

"We could not find a sponsor until the making of the documentary film 'Bunso,'" he said.

"Bunso," a film about the situation of children in conflict with the law (CICL), is four years in the making.

"It is a 19-hour film edited to one hour," he said.

The film was shown to reporters in General Santos City to make journalists understand the reason behind the passage of Republic Act No. 9344.

"We need programs [for children] rather than putting them in jail," Salvosa said.

The Juvenile Justice Network-Philippines said that in the first semester of 2004 alone, the Public Attorney's Office handled 11,812 cases involving CICL nationwide. Of these, only 3,404 cases or 29 percent were solved.

The Second Country Report on the Implementation of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was submitted by the government's Council for the Welfare of Children, showed that from 1995 to 2000, a total of 52,576 children "were monitored as having been deprived of their liberty in detention placement, under custodial setting through suspended sentence."

The report also revealed that an average of 10,515 children were arrested and detained every year, about 28 children every day, or more than one child every hour.

With Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao

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Defeating the cycle of violence in Basilan

By Julie Alipala
Isabela City, Basilan

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SPENDS AT LEAST P5 billion a year for its antiterror and anti-insurgency campaigns but with little result, according to Astrid Tuminez, a Filipino-American researcher working for the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) said.

The Institute that was established and funded by the United States Congress said it aims to "help prevent and resolve violent international conflicts, promote post-conflict stability and democratic transformation, and increase peacebuilding capacity, tools, and intellectual capital worldwide.

"The Institute does this by empowering others with knowledge, skills, and resources, as well as by its direct involvement in peacebuilding efforts around the globe," the USIP website said.

Tuminez recently told reporters in Isabela City that the Philippine government's anti-insurgency and antiterror campaign is actually more detrimental to peace. Thousands had been displaced because of it, Tuminez added.

"For the past 13 years, the government has spent billions [on military operations] but the peace and order situation did not improve," Tuminez said.

She said if the government wanted peace, it should involve stakeholders in negotiations aimed at ending violence.

"So what is the cost of another 13 years of war, and what about the grandchildren, is that a price you want to pay or is there something better?" Tuminez asked.

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, admitted that the military was more concerned about crushing its enemies than weighing the effects of its campaign.

"We in the military were just taught how to fight. We were not supposed to talk [about] winning the peace [through other means]. Our parameter is still stuck on the body count syndrome," Ferrer said.

"In Basilan for example, for three years now, we have not recovered any firearm or killed any Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebel or (Abu Sayyaf) member, therefore we are not successful here, if that is the parameter to follow," he said.

Because the military's orientation is how to win the battle through firearms, soldiers have become "*utak pulbura* (trigger happy)," he said. "And the cycle of violence goes on."

He acknowledged that the military "does not look at the social outcome of what we are doing."

"We are concerned more about the output. The input here is more on operations, the output is more body count, more firearms. So what will happen, will there be peace?" Ferrer asked.

Because he wanted peace, he said he taught soldiers another approach to defeat the enemies.

Among these, he said are values formation, culture of peace, gender sensitivity, reproductive health, human rights and cultural sensitivity.

"Getting out of the box means getting out of that mindset. We won peace here, got closer to the people," he said, citing Basilan's improved peace and order condition.

Ferrer, who supervises two battalions of soldiers in Basilan, admitted that he was expecting criticisms because of his statements.

"The problem with the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) is that a lot of officers don't know what peace means," he said.

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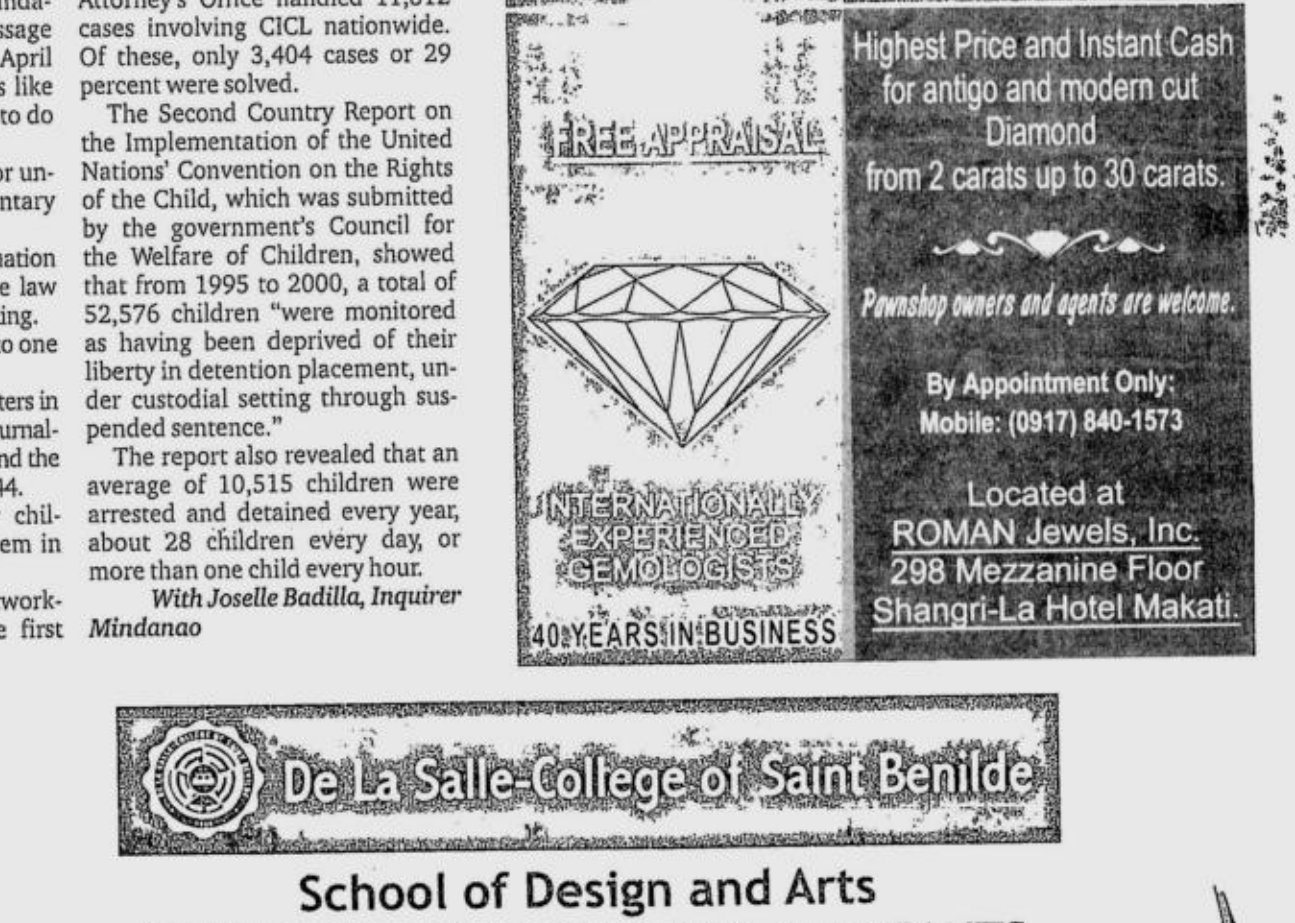

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IN THE KNOW

SIERRA MADRE is the longest mountain range in the Philippines. It has a total area of about 1.8 million hectares straddling nine provinces from Quezon in southern Luzon to Cagayan in the north. It also holds 40 percent of the country's old growth forest.

In March 1997, the 45-km radius from Palanan, Isabela was declared a protected area and has since been known as the Sierra Madre Natural Park. It covers 287,861 ha or nearly half of the 700,000-ha remaining old growth forest cover in the country, but not for long.

Harvesting of trees and other forest products is highly restricted in the area and requires special permits under the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park Act of 2001.

In 2001, a Conservation International report said that 46,622 cubic meters of timber from 857 hectares were taken yearly. Logging also destroys old-growth forests at an average rate of 21,536 ha a year. The same report says 100,000 ha are destroyed every year by timber poachers.

In 2004, timber volume brought down from the Sierra Madre was getting smaller and smaller. It meant only one thing, the DENR said: There are no more mature trees in the mountain.

The extent of the effects of logging in the so-called "backbone of Luzon" became evident by the end 2004, when floods and landslides killed nearly a thousand lives and destroyed billions worth of property in Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija. The tragedy was considered a result of logging activities in Sierra Madre.

Illegal logging has also not stopped and continues to destroy the mountain range.

Mel Lawrence de Guzman, Inquirer Research

Palace restores permit to log in 36,000 ha in Sierra Madre

LUCENA CITY—A LICENSE TO CUT TREES IN MORE THAN 36,000 hectares of land in Sierra Madre was approved by unidentified Palace officials after it had been cancelled earlier by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, according to environment groups fighting logging in the logged over mountain.

The Quezon Provincial Multisectoral Forest Protection Council (QMSFPC) and two other environment NGOs said a forestry contract of the Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI), owned by Bulacan logger Wilson Ng, was reinstated on orders of Palace officials.

Johnny Glorioso, QMSFPC committee on information chair, said he was stunned when he got the information from DENR regional executive director Antonio Principe during the launching of Green Philippine Highways in Lucban town Thursday.

"The reinstatement has been recently approved with finality by Malacañang though TFPI has yet to start its operation due to some (unsubmitted) requirements," Glorioso quoted Principe.

He said the controversial Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma), or license to cut trees, has long been opposed by residents and local officials of Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns. "And now here comes this final Malacañang decision allowing it to proceed operations."

The 25-year Ifma, covering 36,660 hectares in the Quezon province part of Sierra Madre, was granted to Ng on Nov. 12, 2002, during the term of former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

Alvarez's successor, Elisea Gozun, revoked the Ifma on Jan. 13, 2004, saying "fraud, misrepresentation and omission of material facts" surrounded the process by which the DENR granted the Ifma contract.

In a past interview with Ng, he admitted that he appealed his case to Malacañang.

Based on DENR records, TFPI's Ifma was reinstated by the Office of the President on March 4, 2005, four months after the tragic flash floods and landslides in the three Quezon towns.

The decision was immediately protested and contested by residents, local officials and environmentalist groups.

The Palace held back the implementation of the decision for further study.

Lawyer Asis Perez, executive director of Tanggol Kalikasan, a public interest legal defense center for the protection of the environment, and Catholic priest Pete Montallana, Task Force Sierra Madre chair, both confirmed Glorioso's information.

Montallana described Malacañang's approval as "nauseating."

"It seems that Malacañang has not learned the lessons left by the 2004 calamitous flash floods and landslides," Montallana said.

Perez said they were inclined to believe that President Macapagal-Arroyo had nothing to do with the reinstatement of Ng's controversial Ifma.

"President Arroyo has cancelled all logging permits. But then suddenly here comes this Ifma approval. We will continue to vigorously oppose it," Perez said.

The head of DENR-Quezon took a safe distance from the controversy.

"I know nothing about that. Ask the DENR central office," he told the INQUIRER.

The environmentalist groups vowed to continue to protest any form of logging in Sierra Madre.

"Any form of logging in Sierra Madre is abominable," Montallana said.

The Social Action Center of the Prelature of Infanta has long been opposing not only TFPI's Ifma but also the continuous logging operation of Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc., a real estate development company said to be owned by lawyer Romeo Roxas. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DENR won't let court stand in way of port closure

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF Environment and Natural Resources Friday insisted it was shutting down the operations of a port contractor in Poro Point in a move that had been criticized as part of a squeeze play to boot the contractor out of the port on request of a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Joel Salvador, regional director of the DENR's Environmental Management Bureau, led EMB personnel and policemen in enforcing the cease-and-desist order (CDO) that his office issued last month to the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC)

Salvador said he issued the order after discovering that the PPIC had been operating the seaport without an environmental compliance certificate and was violating environmental laws.

The PPIC earlier questioned the DENR order that it must get a separate ECC, saying it is not an individual locator inside the Poro Point Special Economic and Freeport Zone but the "operator, manager and administrator of the seaport area."

"If an ECC is really needed, why are they demanding that we get it now when we're already operating for seven years?" said PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay.

Workers and executives of the PPIC said the DENR ruling was part of a ploy to boot out the PPIC from the port.

A former official of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and a Palace official pointed to Ilocos Sur. Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson as the one behind the squeeze play.

On Aug. 7, the regional trial court granted the PPIC a 72-hour temporary restraining order that was later extended to 20 days.

Silverio Mangaoang Jr., PPA port manager, stopped the PPA's operations on Friday in favor of the PPIC, saying the court might hold him in contempt if he continued to defy the TRO.

Salvador told Mangaoang that the PPIC had not complied yet with the DENR order.

Mangaoang said the DENR, not PPA, should enforce the CDO.

He said he signed a memorandum with the PPIC officials on Thursday that it would be the PPIC that would operate the seaport because of the TRO.

At 3 p.m. Friday, however, EMB officials and the police arrived at Poro Point and stopped the PPIC's operations.

BRINGING his case to media in Manila, PPIC legal counsel Brigido Dulay shows a position paper issued by the BCDA in a media forum in Quezon City. RYAN LIM

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay said he did not receive any information about DENR personnel going to the port and enforcing the CDO.

Chavit says he had no hand in port takeover

ILOCOS SUR GOV. LUIS "CHAVIT" SINGSON insisted he was not behind the takeover by the government of the port at Poro Point.

Singson said in a statement that his name was being dragged into the controversy by his detractors.

Singson admitted in his statement that a cousin, Filadelfo Rojas, is a cousin, but said Rojas "was highly qualified for the position and is not corrupt."

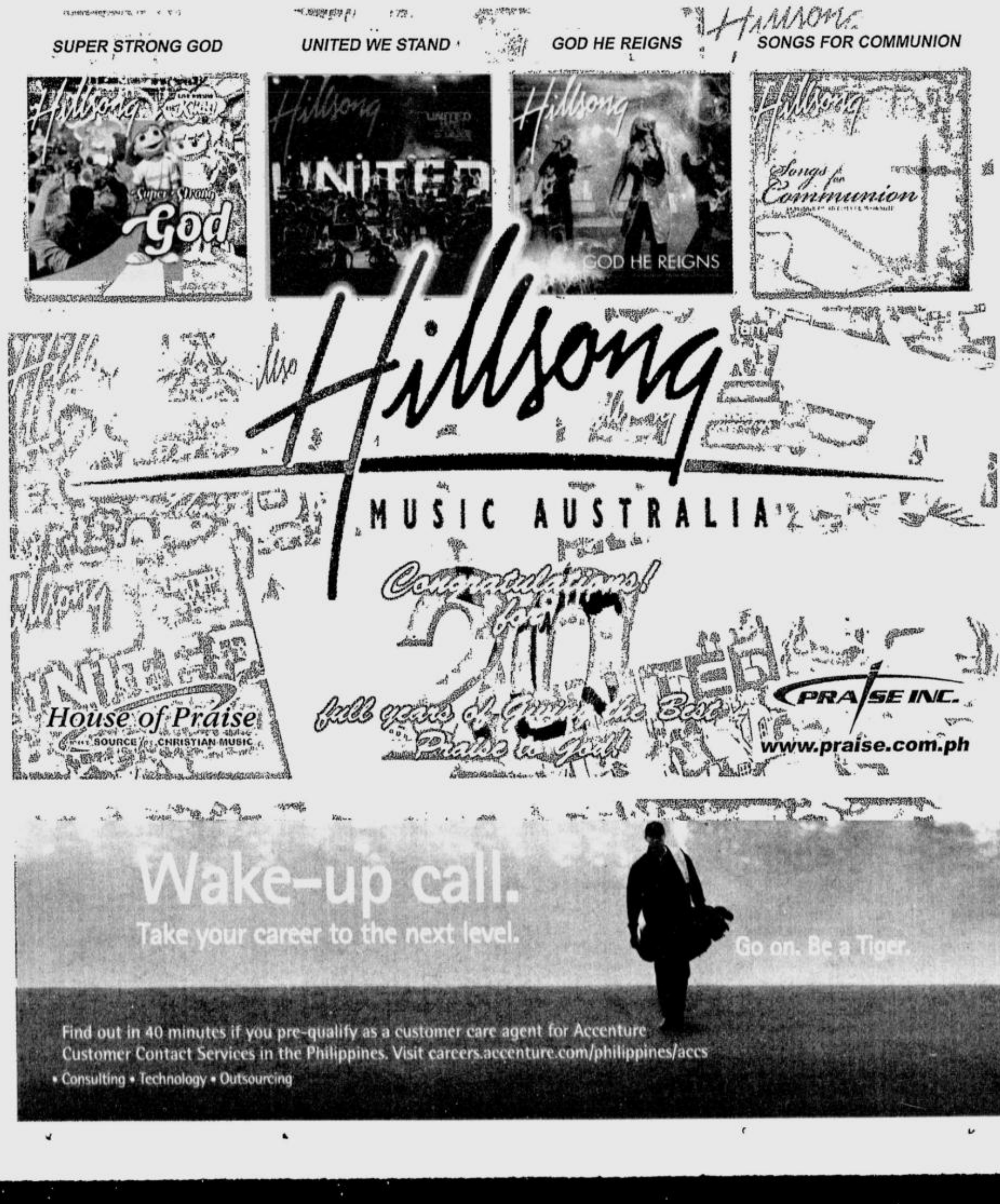
Singson said he couldn't possibly exert influence on the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), which governs Poro Point, and the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) because they "have their respective boards of directors composed of highly professional and independent individuals."

While Singson said he did not have a hand in the takeover, he said he was fully aware of the reasons for it.

"Since it started operating in 1999, no development has been undertaken," said Singson, who was instrumental in the downfall of former President Joseph Estrada and the rise to power of President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001.

He said the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) that operates the port "didn't honor a commitment to build an industrial park and commercial center."

Singson said in his statement that "he welcomes the resolute decision of the PPA and the BCDA to take over management of Poro Point."



ROUNDUP

Laguna media group

SAN PABLO CITY—Media practitioners in Laguna have formed a group whose main tasks are to make citizens aware of the usefulness and excesses of news media and to promote morality and Gospel values through various modern means of communications. Among those who committed themselves to be members of the Social Communications Ministry or Media Ministry in the San Pablo Diocese in a meeting held at the Bishop's Residence here on July 15 are Ceasarson "Sonny" Bismonte of the Daily Tribune; Arjay Salgado, host of dzJB AM radio and a weekly community paper editor; Aldrin Cacayan, host of Channel 17 cable TV, dzSP radio announcer and a weekly paper editor; Ma. Jekha P. Bagaporo, Union of Catholic Asian News correspondent and Nita C. Cornista of The Barangay Weekly.

2 rebs, 1 soldier killed

CAMP MELCHOR DELA CRUZ, Gamu, Isabela—Two suspected New People's Army rebels and a government soldier were killed in a 15-minute gunfight in San Mariano town on Wednesday. Maj. Victor Tanggawohn Jr., civil-military operations unit chief of the 5th Infantry Division, said the slain rebels, believed to belong to the NPA's Filomena Asuncion Command, have yet to be identified while the Army soldier's name was withheld pending notification of his relatives. Their bodies were taken to a funeral parlor in Ilagan town. Tanggawohn said the clash broke out when soldiers conducting patrol in the remote village of Ibujan met the rebels at 2 a.m. Government soldiers seized two M-16 rifles, two M-14 rifles, a M203 grenade launcher and antigovernment documents at the clash site.

Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

2 kids die in Kalinga landslide

BAGUIO CITY—Two children were killed while five others were hurt on Monday night when a landslide buried their house in Tabuk, Kalinga, reports from the Office of Civil Defense in the Cordillera said. OCD reports said siblings Allen Mark Carpio, 5, and Claudine Carpio, 11, were inside their house in Sitio Balani in Barangay Lucog, Tabuk when the landslide, triggered by rains occurred at 10 p.m. Among the injured were the Carpios' parents, a brother and other relatives. Tabuk Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. said landslides in the villages of Lucog, Magnao, Dupag and Binagan on Monday and Tuesday damaged at least 50 houses. Lammawin said roads hit by landslides were cleared by personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways. OCD reports said the landslide damaged a 5.5-km road, a school building and a church.

Desiree Caluza and Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Bayan Muna member wounded

CITY OF MALOLOS—A member of Bayan Muna in Bulacan was shot and wounded in Barangay Panasahan here on Tuesday night. While a Bayan Muna official in Bulacan confirmed Patricio Manahan's membership in the party-list group, the police said the victim is a nipa roof maker and not affiliated with the group. Manahan, who suffered three bullet wounds, was taken to the Bulacan Provincial Hospital. Supt. Manuel Lukban, Malolos police chief, said Manahan, 33, was having dinner with his family inside their house at about 8 p.m. when four armed men arrived and shot him. Lukban said Manahan, in a signed statement denying his affiliation with Bayan Muna, claimed that he did not know or recognize the four suspects. For more than two months now, Army troops under Lt. Col. Rogelio Boac, chief of Task Force Bulacan, are stationed at a detachment in Parangay Panasahan as part of the government's intensified anti-insurgency campaign. But Boac denied the alleged involvement of any of his men in the attack on Manahan. "Our job is to protect people, not abuse them," he said.

Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

'Kapeng barako' revival in Lipa

LIPA CITY—To revive the coffee industry, the city council unanimously approved a resolution requiring all city government departments to serve the native "kapeng barako" instead of instant coffee in their offices. Lipa was the country's primary source of coffee in the 1880s before the "bagombong plague" struck its plantations in 1888, which led to the decline of the industry. Councilor Avior Rocafort, head of the local coffee board, said to ensure the program's success, kapeng barako's patronage must start with the government and from that, people's interest on the product would follow. He said since last year's October Coffee Festival, at least 6,500 of the 10,000 distributed coffee seedlings have been planted citywide.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cop recruitment suspended

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANTHONY MISTADES

PARANG, Maguindanao—Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police director, said he has ordered the suspension of police recruitment in the region in the wake of persistent reports of irregularities in the screening process. Goltiao said an investigation and review of the process was being undertaken. He said the process would ensure that the anomaly, if any, could be put to an end. It was reported that those who could pay a certain amount are automatically accepted into the police training program. Goltiao also announced a major revamp in the administrative leadership and field commands in the region, which is composed of Basilan, Lanao Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, and Marawi City.

Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao

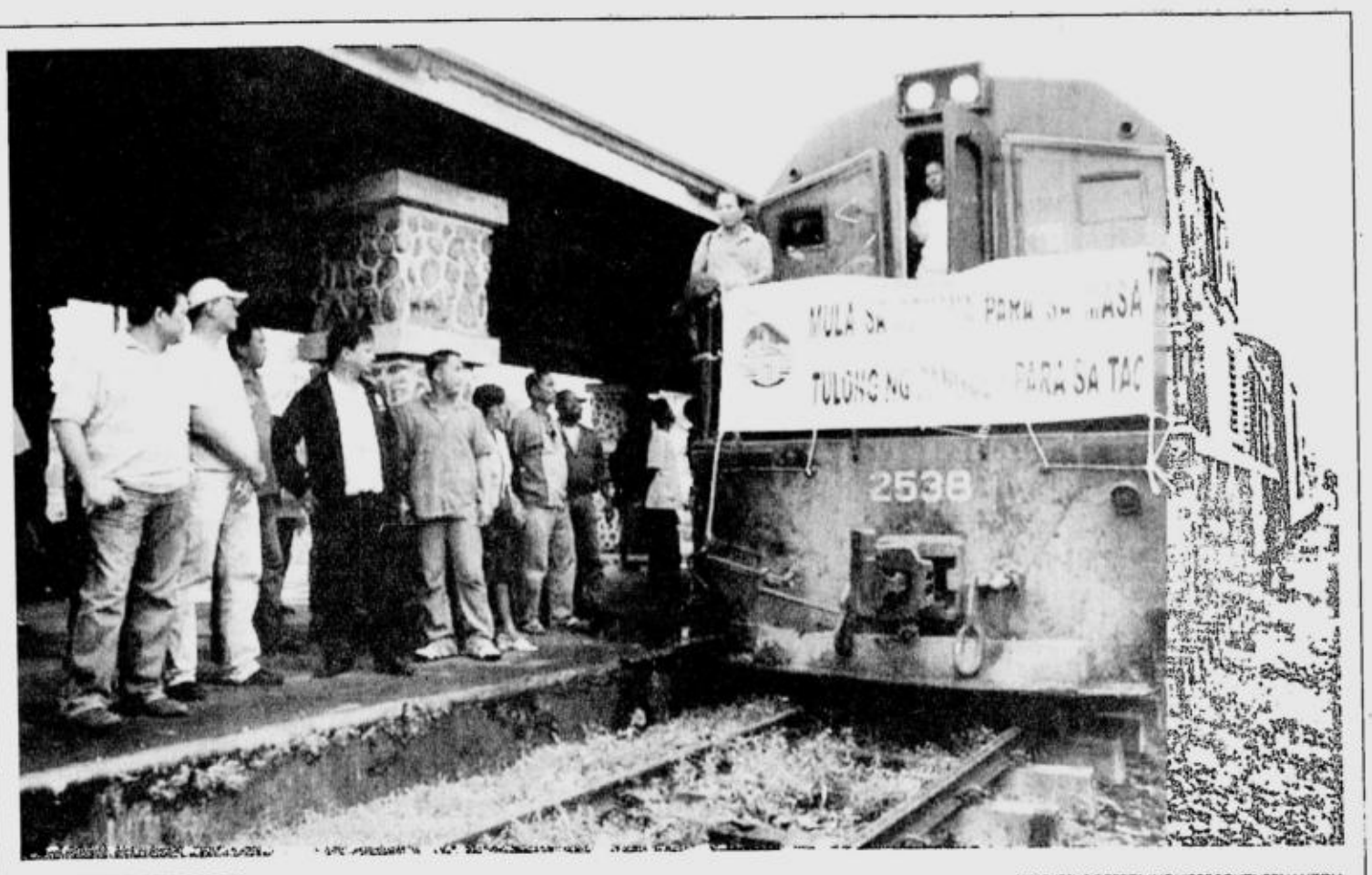
Ifugao man dies of meningo

BAGUIO CITY—A 23-year-old man from Hingyon, Ifugao, died on Wednesday from a disease doctors here suspected to be meningococcemia, a government doctor confirmed on Wednesday. The man died three days after he was taken to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center from the Ifugao Provincial Hospital. Dr. Antonio Bautista of the Department of Health team tasked in monitoring cases of meningococcemia in the Cordillera, said the victim had no history of travel to Baguio, where confirmed cases of meningococcemia caused a controversy last year. Baguio, however, had been "case free for the last two to three months," Bautista said. Only six of the 23 cases with meningococcemia symptoms recorded in the region since Jan. 1 this year proved to be the fatal meningitis strain, he said. Two of the 10 patients with meningococcemia symptoms recorded in Baguio died, although only one patient proved to be suffering from the disease, the DOH said. Benguet recorded four fatalities out of 10 cases, but only one tested positive for the disease.

Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

EDUCATION INNOVATION PHOTO FROM NHA

School tents rise in the Southville Housing Project for railway settlers who were moved to a government site in Cabuyao, Laguna. The National Housing Authority thought of the tents as an alternative to traditional classrooms that take longer to build. The tent accommodates 10 classrooms each.



BACK IN SERVICE NINO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

A train of the Philippine National Railways arrives in Legazpi City carrying canned goods, used clothes and other items for distribution to residents of communities around Mayon who were moved to temporary shelters in the wake of Mayon's continuing lava flow and ash emissions.

Fears raised cop held captive by NPAs executed for 'crimes'

VIRAC, CATANDUANES—FEARS WERE raised a policeman being kept captive by communist guerrillas had been executed.

Senior Supt. Saadra Mapandi Gani, Catanduanes police chief, said he still hoped that SPO1 Cesar Liberato, 49, was still alive.

Reports that could not be verified said Liberato had been executed by the guerrillas for serving as guide in military operations against the New People's Army and various other unspecified abuses.

The INQUIRER received the information on Liberato's death from a reliable source who is in contact with the NPA's Nerissa San Juan Command.

Gani said Liberato was sacked from a previous assignment in Caramoran town upon the request of Mayor Ma. Theresa Qua. Qua had complained of Liberato's alleged illegal activities.

Liberato was on duty in Viga, some 52 km from the capital town, when he got word from his wife in Tubli, Caramoran town that their child was sick.

He sought permission from the town chief of police, Insp. Ramon Tugay, to get his allowance at the provincial police office in Camp Francisco Camacho, Virac.

Tugay granted his request, but instead of going south to Virac, Liberato hitched a ride with a teacher in a motorcycle going to Panganiban town where the pair traveled west along a shorter route to Sabloyon, Caramoran.

Upon reaching Sabloyon, Liberato waited for a man sent by his wife to fetch him.

Minutes later, he was riding the motorcycle driven by a certain Jomel de Quiroz along the national road going to Tubli when they were intercepted at a checkpoint set up by about 60 NPA rebels believed to have just arrived from Camarines Sur.

The rebel group took the two men, transporting them on board a commandeered tricycle to Kilometer 80, somewhere at the middle of the Sabloyon-Panganiban national secondary road.

Liberato's companion was released unharmed hours later.

Pursuit operations followed, with the government sending about 150 policemen and Army soldiers to look for the rebel group.

Gani himself spent three days in the area to explore possible options to secure Liberato's release, including volunteering to negotiate directly with the rebel leaders.

A 24-year veteran in law enforcement, Liberato originally hailed from Masbate province and had been residing in Tubli with his wife and seven children, with the youngest just a year old.

This is the third NPA-related incident to occur in Catanduanes since Gani took command last June.

On June 8, an eight-man rebel group killed PO2 Ferdinand Bobiles and wounded companion PO1 Ramon Valatero and a child bystander in Panganiban poblacion.

Last July 1, the NPA ambushed a six-man convoy of cops serving a warrant of arrest in San Andres town, killing two officers—including Senior Insp. Alexander Diaz, the commander of the Provincial Police Mobile Group.

Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Palawan folk urge responsible mining

POOR COMMUNITIES are urging the municipal government of Espanola, Palawan to consider the operation of responsible mining in a site rich in high-grade chromite to help create jobs and revenues, and improve the lives of the people.

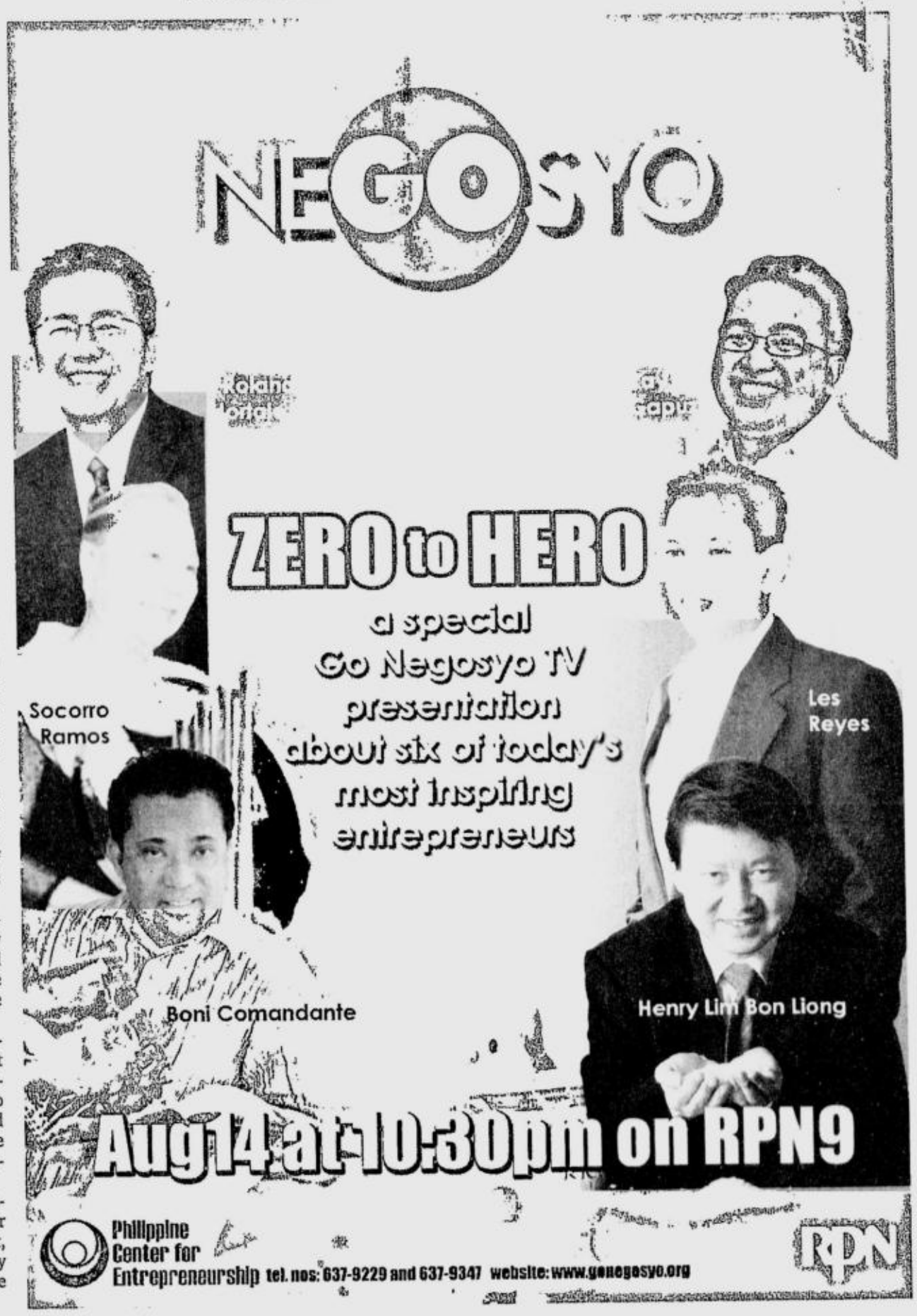
A press statement from the Samahan Tungo sa Kinabukasan, a group of residents in Espanola town, quoted Paquito Villagonzalo, 50, Boyet Cabitac, 38, and Gerardo Ano, 48, residents of Upper Lapu-Lapu in Espanola town as appealing to the provincial government unit to look into their sorry state and address extreme poverty in the countryside.

"We are in a crisis (*nasa kagipitan po kami ngayon*)," Villagonzalo, a father of six children, was quoted as saying.

He urged the government to allow only reliable and trustworthy mine operators in the area.

He said mining operations could not only generate employment, but also bolster trade and commerce in the site and its nearby communities.

The residents complained of hunger and unemployment, saying "we hardly have three square meals a day."



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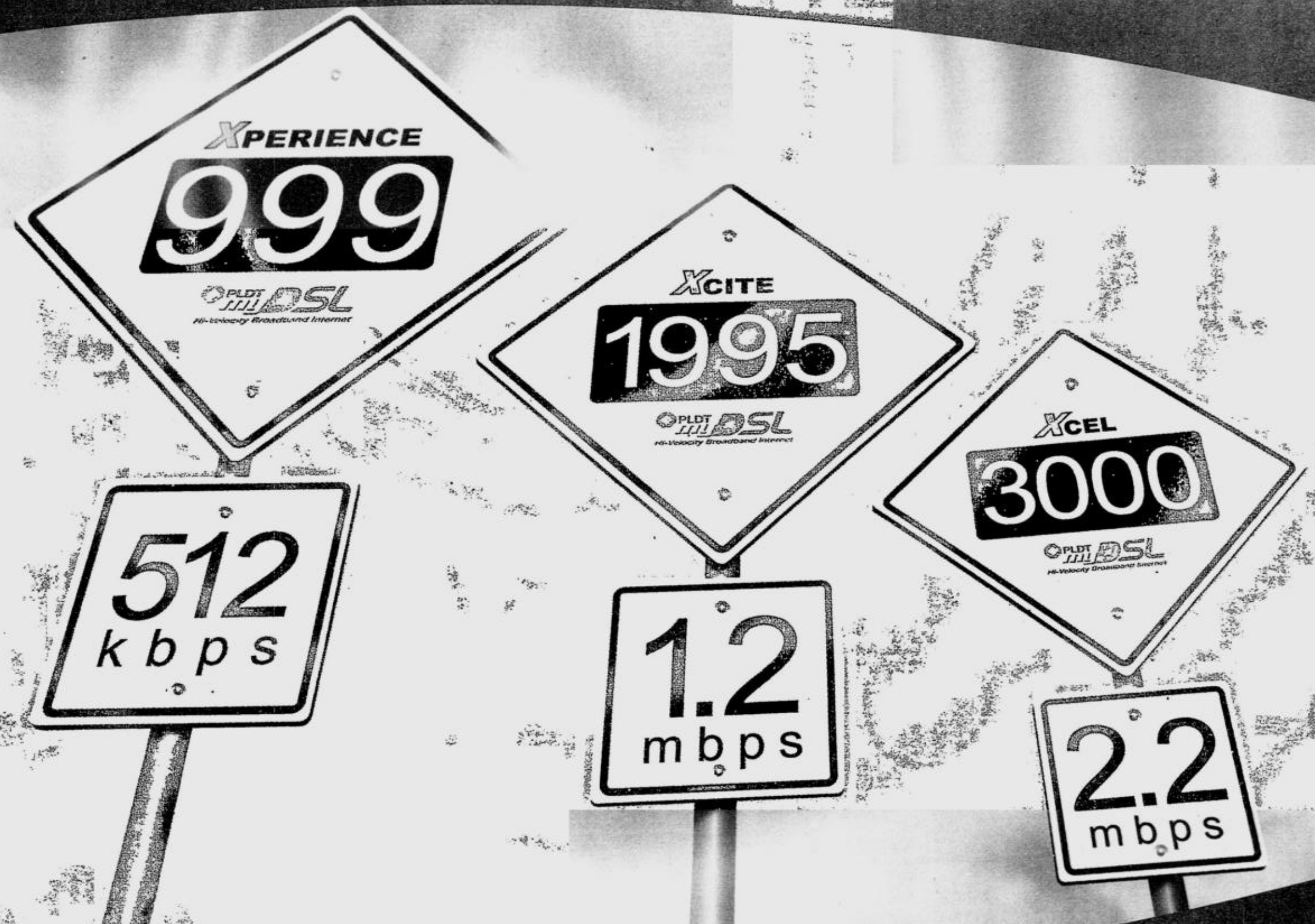

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R. Hidalgo to reclaim title of RP's photo haven

Once a mecca for shutterbugs, street had become crowded and unsafe

ONCE the place to be for photographers, Resurreccion Hidalgo Street has been taken over by sidewalk vendors over the years. JOHN CHUA, CONTRIBUTOR

By Tina G. Santos

RENOWNED 19TH CENTURY Filipino painter Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo should be pleased. A street in Manila named after him is about to regain its lost glory.

Three months from now, the stretch of R. Hidalgo Street in Quiapo—particularly the portion stretching from Plaza Miranda to P. Gomez Street—will soon be able to reclaim its decades-old reputation as the country's photography haven.

For several decades, the area was a lively and flourishing trading place where photographers could get anything they needed to practice their craft, especially secondhand cameras and hard-to-find accessories.

"Every Filipino photographer knows where R. Hidalgo is. Whether greenhorn or professional, student or seasoned hobbyist, almost all photographers have, at one time or another, searched for and found photo equipment or supplies in the photo shops of R. Hidalgo," according to advertising photographer John Chua.

It all started here

It was also the place where almost all big photo companies had their humble beginnings, he added.

Ambulant vendors, however, have gradually taken over the area over the years, prompting several businesses to consider relocating to other parts of Metro Manila, particularly to big malls.

R. HIDALGO/ A18

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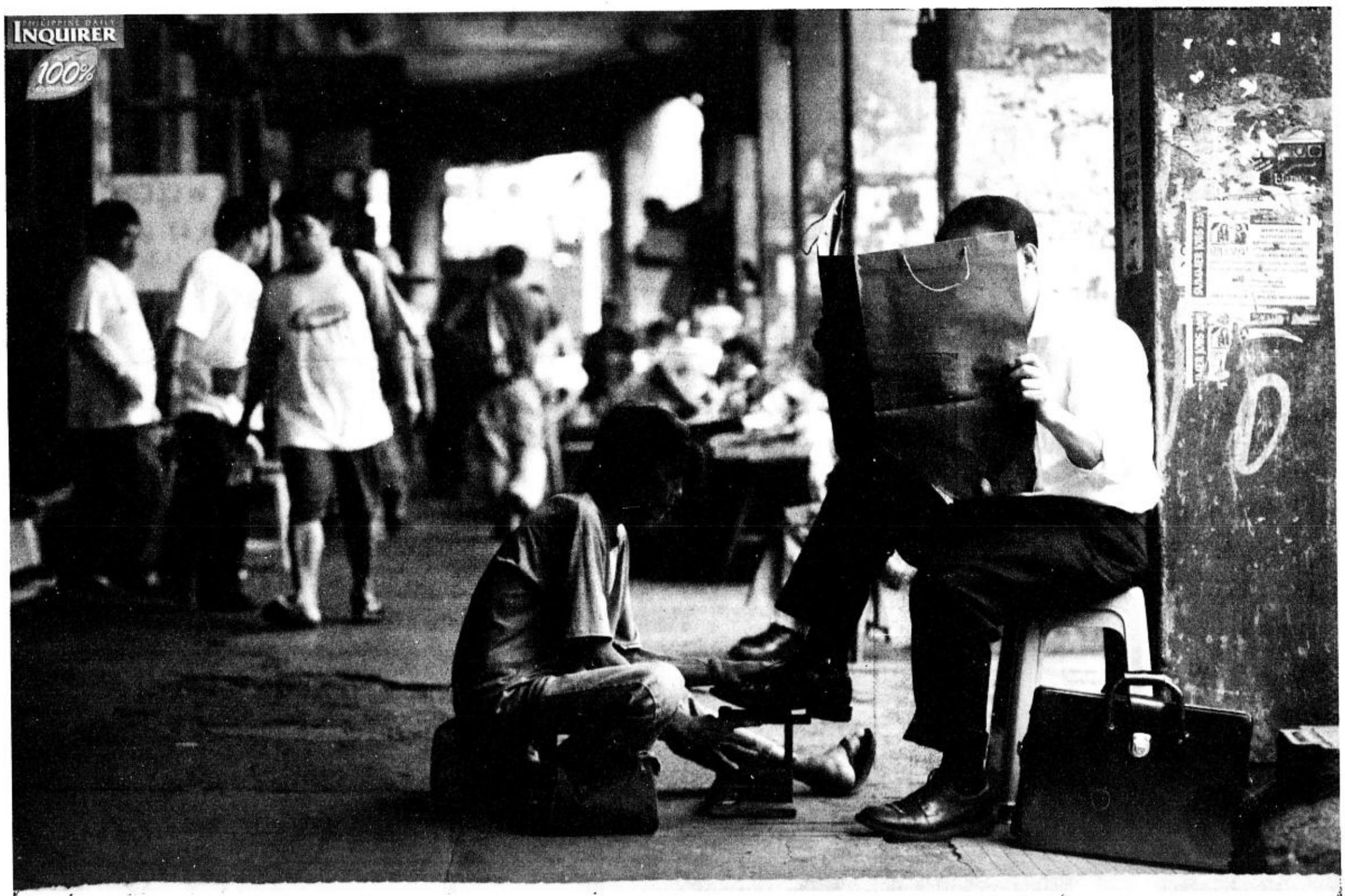

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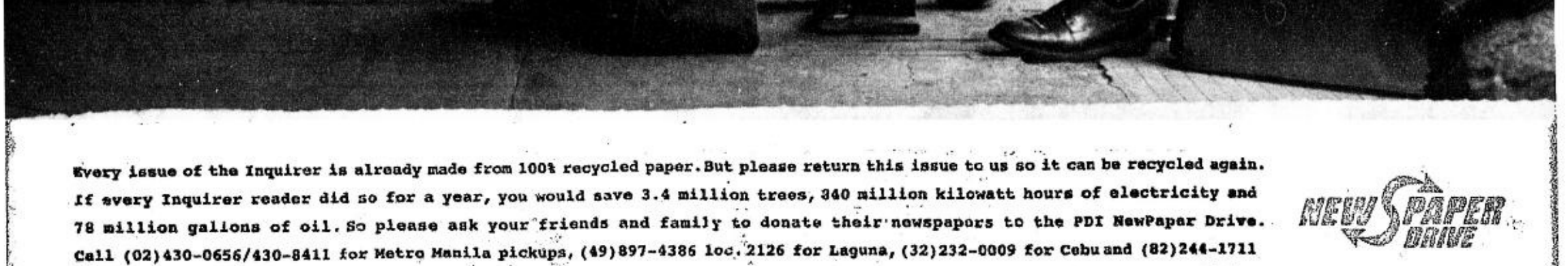


Accountant's dream gets a good start in the kitchen

By Jocelyn R. Uy

RAMON TAN, A NATURAL-BORN entrepreneur, has found his true calling—of all places—in the kitchen.

The 63-year-old man is behind the thriving 11-year-old herbal product line Carica. The business started by this accounting major began in his kitchen when he was asked to make honey from fermented papaya fruit by a Japanese chemist.

Though no scientist or culinary genius, Tan came up with papaya honey which he now exports by the truckloads to other countries.

TAN'S preferred working place is in the kitchen.

"I spend most of my time in the kitchen thinking up new concoctions using the trial and error method on things people usually discard. To be an entrepreneur, you have to be able to see where you can fill a gap," Tan told the INQUIRER.

The accounting graduate of De La Salle University has so far come up with 120 herbal products and 50 non-herbal items such as charcoal, alcohol and jatropha oil—all concocted in his kitchen at his house in Parañaque City.

He has also mobilized more than 300 outlets of his products across the country to cultivate jatropha—also known as "tuba tuba" plant—a perennial that thrives in barren land, in support of the government's program to develop the crop into a substitute for diesel fuel. Oil that has the same characteristics as diesel can be extracted from the jatropha seed.

Slimming pill

Tan's daredevil attitude and creativity, however, led to an amazing discovery: the plant could also be used as a slimming agent.

He recalled that one day, after extracting oil from the jatropha seed, he thought of roasting the leftovers. "It smelled good after it was roasted. I thought something that smelled that good couldn't possibly be poisonous," he said.

To test whether it was safe or not to eat the seeds, he left the stuff out for ants to feast on. "And they did! Today, jatropha also comes in capsules which one can take for good bowel movement," Tan added.

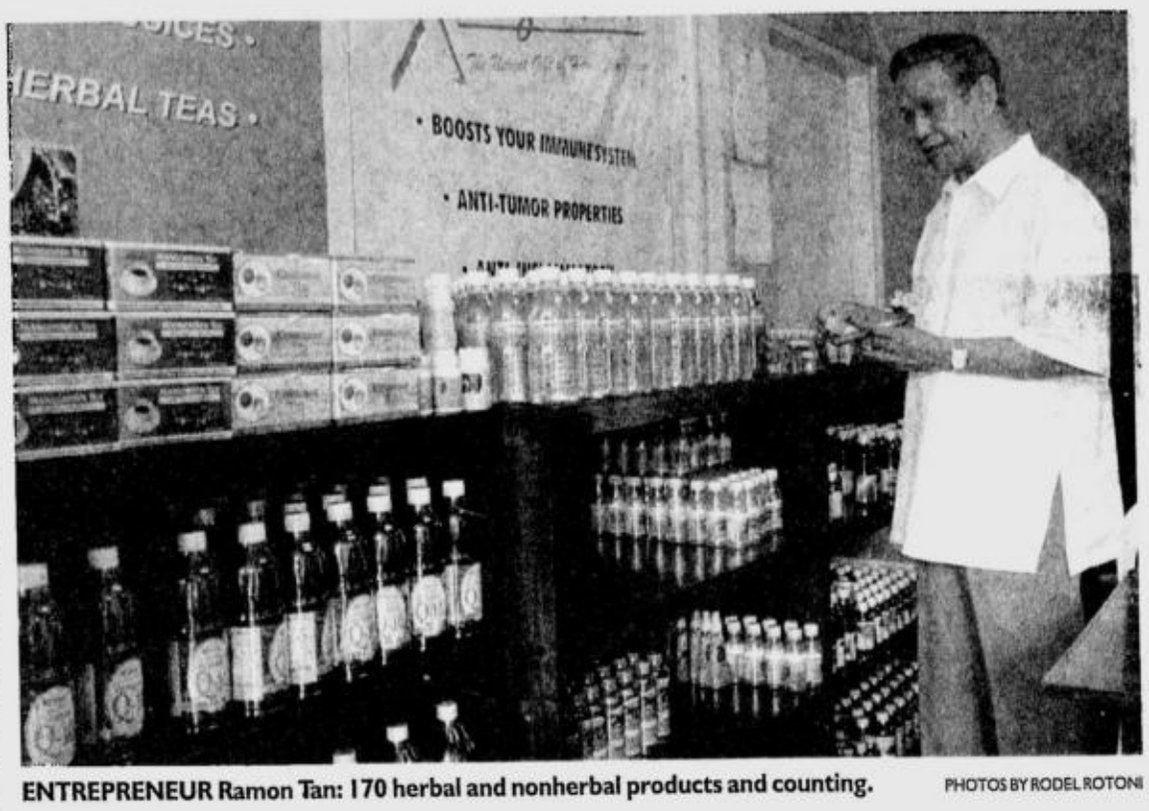
"I've learned that if one thing tastes bad, do something about it that would make it more palatable and acceptable. It's always about seeing the gap and filling it," Tan said, repeating his philosophy like a mantra..

Boy entrepreneur

There have been countless gaps he has filled since he was seven. His first foray into entrepreneurship involved selling old newspapers which he collected from neighbors and meat vendors in the public market.

Tan was raised by Filipino parents of Chinese descent in the sleepy town of Catanauan in Quezon province.

"My parents owned land but they had no money," he recalled.



ENTREPRENEUR Ramon Tan: 170 herbal and nonherbal products and counting. PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

His grandfather owned a 6,000-hectare ranch but World War II left them with not a single head of cattle nor crop, he added.

This pushed him to find work. "My family had just enough money to send us to school and feed us. After the basics, we were on our own. I had to buy my own clothes," Tan, the youngest in a brood of 10, told the INQUIRER.

At age 10, he also learned to trade in scrap metals. Instead of playing with his friends, he would go to places hit by fire in Lucena City to rummage for metal, which he would later sell to junk shops.

Moonlighting

During college at De La Salle University (DLSU), he moonlighted as a typist for his classmates and as a utility man in the school library. "My life revolved around the concept that I had to do something if I wanted to earn money," he said.

After graduation, Tan climbed the corporate ladder at the Sycip, Gorres, Velayo (SGV) auditing firm. He then went on to work at Pfizer, Colgate, Sanofi, Lig Marine and a Singaporean consulting group. He also accepted teaching jobs at DLSU, Philippine Women's University and the University of the Philippines.

"For 61 years, I tried to find out who I was and failed to find the answers in my various jobs," he admitted.

His "business only" attitude later evolved into something more worthwhile. "Now it's different. I am working for a cause. Filipinos need help and that's what inspires me now," he said.

As an offshoot of his herbal company, he put up a livelihood and entrepreneur assistance program last year, training 60 "ordinary" Filipinos to run his Carica outlets and eventually own it.

He has thought of giving away his business to his countrymen to help them become more productive, as he dreams of "total sufficiency and mass-based participation" through income-generating activities.

"I love this country like I love nothing else," Tan said simply.

A POLICEMAN examines a factory in Taguig City which was hit by a fire yesterday. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the blaze. REM ZAMORA

P1.5-M property damaged in Taguig fire

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A NEIGHBORHOOD IN TAGUIG City was thrown into Panic yesterday after a fire hit a factory that had been the subject of complaints coming from residents in 2003, authorities said.

The factory—Dense Contract Corp. Philippines—located inside the Armed Forces of the Philippines Enlisted Personnel Housing in Western Bicutan, manufactures bullet-proof vests, helmets, fiber glass and other military and anti-riot equipment.

The owner was identified as Insp. Rosadel dela Cruz who was formerly assigned to the Manila Police District, city fire marshal Senior Insp. Virgilio dela Paz said.

The fire, which began shortly after 6 a.m., was traced to a stockroom on the second floor of the three-story residential and commercial facility.

Cans of of paint thinner, synthetic materials and machines were kept on the floor, Dela Paz told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He pegged the damage at roughly P1.5 million after the fire was put out at around 7 a.m.

"We will order a stoppage of operation since factories are prohibited in residential areas," Dela Paz said.

R. Hidalgo to reclaim title of RP's ...

From page A17

"Sadly, many photographers have shied away from R. Hidalgo. Photo shops in the area have suffered business setbacks because the place had become inaccessible, crowded and unattractive, not to mention unsafe," Chua stressed.

This prompted Chua, a former photojournalist who once worked for the defunct news magazine Asiaweek, to draw up a plan that would help restore the area's reputation as a mecca for photographers.

"This is one way to uplift the industry and help photographers nationwide," he said.

R. HIDALGO Street then (left) and now. There are still photo shops in the area but business is not as brisk.

Help from city government

Backed by different photography organizations and several photo shop owners, Chua suggested the restoration idea to the city government, which approved of it heartily.

According to Ali Atienza, the chair of the team tasked to oversee the implementation of the project, the area would be developed into a promenade paved with colorful interlocking concrete blocks, complete with benches lining both sides of the street, landscaping and brightly-lit lamp posts. To beautify the place, electrical wires and cables in the area would be placed underground.

Chua, meanwhile, proposed the establishment of outdoor cafés where photographers could hang out and mingle with one another; a photo gallery where one could hold an exhibit or sell his work; a library showcasing books about photography, old cameras and computers donated by photographers; and a bookstore that exclusively features photography books.

He said photo shop owners have already promised to conduct events like photo shoot festivals, fashion shows and product launchings, among others.

Another Baywalk

"The place could be developed into something like the Baywalk. It could become a tourist spot where locals and foreign visitors would come to buy equipment and learn photography," he added, saying they intend to conduct lectures and seminars for amateur photographers and enthusiasts alike.

Chua said he also foresees various economic benefits from the rehabilitation of R. Hidalgo.

"It will be like a magnet drawing serious buyers of high-value items such as cameras and lenses. There would be great employment opportunities for people in the area as more stores would experience a higher volume of sales turnovers," he stressed.

"Business will be brisk and profitable once more. Certainly, this will bring in additional revenues not only for shop owners and Manila residents but also for the city government," Chua said.

Vendors in the area, meanwhile, have been temporarily relocated to the corner of Quezon Boulevard and Carlos Palanca Street. But the city government said they would be accommodated inside the Quinta Market which is due to undergo a complete renovation.

Training, seminars

Chua said he and other photographers will offer training programs to vendors and their families who may want to make taking pictures their new career.

"We can also train them as photographers' assistants," he said. "This would also help create a pool of freelance assistants for photographers in the Metro Manila area."

According to Chua, he, along with the other prime movers of the project, have more plans for the redevelopment of R. Hidalgo. Hopefully, the project could revive the lost splendor of an era of gentle times and even gentler people.

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Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program

Invitation to Submit Expressions of Interest for the conduct of Project Financial Audit of various PACAP-funded Projects

The Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP) is a 20-year old bilateral development program supporting community-initiated, economically sustainable, ecologically-sound and gender responsive development efforts. PACAP is a joint effort between the Australian Government and the Government of the Philippines that provides financial assistance to various local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations (POs) all over the country. It is currently being managed on behalf of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) by Hassall & Associates International (HAI) of Australia in collaboration with its Philippine partner, Sustainable Development Solutions (SDS).

In compliance with AusAID guidelines, the Program is required to commission external local financial auditors to undertake financial audit of various PACAP-funded projects all over the country (currently totaling about 200). This audit aims to ensure compliance of proponents to the approved proposal and grant agreements. Generally, it will cover financial aspects of projects and shall include: (a) inspection of the books of accounts of both grant and counterpart funds; (b) validation of project expenditures to ensure financial control and compliance to accepted accounting and auditing procedures; (c) visit to the bank where grant funds are deposited.

In this regard, we are currently seeking qualified external auditors to submit expressions of interest (EOI) to conduct the necessary audit for PACAP projects within the months of September and October 2006. EOIs should include a brief background of the company, description of five (5) similar projects/undertakings conducted over the last 5 years (indicating at least 2 referees per project), capsule curriculum vitae of five (5) professional staff who will be assigned to conduct the audit, and relevant permits, licenses, accreditations or registration documents. Pro-forma EOI forms for External Auditors maybe downloaded from the PACAP website at http://www.pacap.org.ph/eoi_projectaudit.htm. Interested parties must submit 5 hard copies of their Expressions of Interest no later than COB on Friday, 25 August 2006 addressed to:

The Program Coordinator
Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program
2309 Prestige Tower, F. Ortigas Jr Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
1600 PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted companies will be notified and invited to attend a subcontractor's briefing.

(PDI - August 13, 2006)

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P)	CONTRACT DURATION
BRAND NEW DUMP TRUCK Specifications: Forward control; tilt cab; left hand drive 4 x 2; six wheeler 3.8 m³ capacity; powered by Isuzu Diesel Engine Model 6HH 1– N with output of 175PS/2, 800 RPM gross vehicle mass 11,000 kg; dump body max. payload 5,700 kgs. complete with spare tire, standard tool kit, and manuals	Provincial Government of La Union, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union	For use in the Provincial Government of La Union	3,420,000.00	120 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 14, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	August 21, 2006, 9:00 A.M. Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
3. Opening of Bids	August 28, 2006, 9:00 A.M. Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC
4. Bid Evaluation	August 29 – September 12, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	August 29 – September 12, 2006
6. Notice of Award	August 29 – September 12, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000 to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI – August 6 & 13, 2006)

Makati has less trash

THE VOLUME OF garbage collected for the first half of the year in Makati went down by nearly 12 percent compared to last year's, City Hall said yesterday.

Danilo Villas, the city's Department of Environmental Services (DES) chief, reported that a total of 442,220 cubic meters of garbage were collected from January to June. This accounted for a 28,199-cubic meter reduction compared to the same period in 2005.

Villas attributed the decrease to the consolidated efforts of local government officials and heads of barangays, schools and households in the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Act. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

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Editor Gerry Lirio

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to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filip[illegible]g on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

DABU: He's got the looks, the voice and the stage presence; and someday he will perform here in the Philippines.

'Kumustahan' discovers Pinoy idol Down Under

By Kenneth M. del Rosario
Contributor

LUIS DABU, 24, A Pinoy singing sensation in Australia, has been in Melbourne for the better part of his life. Coming from a musically-inclined family, Luis started singing at the age of 5 and by his 10th birthday he already knew how to play the piano and guitar.

And though often tagged as the heartthrob during his performances abroad, Luis remains grounded and proudly recognizes his Filipino roots with his music.

Flattering compliments

"It's so flattering to hear people call me a heartthrob," Luis tells the INQUIRER in an e-mail interview, adding that it feels good to receive this kind of compliment from the viewers themselves. He says he actually doesn't mind at all being labeled as a heartthrob if that is what the public wants.

Luis, who graduated from Brunswick Secondary College with a certificate in Metal Engineering in 1997, thinks that the heartthrob tag started as a tease from his family and friends who, he recalls, keep on calling him such as he would always dress up and try to be the best looking guy around during special occasions and even in simple family gatherings. "I guess the word spread," Luis quips with a smile.

Youngest of four children, his family migrated to Australia in the 1980s when he was still a toddler, too young to even remember crossing continents.

"I don't really have much recollection of the Philippines since I grew up here (in Melbourne), but I do know (from memory) that it's a beautiful place," he tells of his mother country, saying he has always been nonetheless proud of being a Filipino.

Growing up in Australia, Luis often wonders what he would have become had he been raised in the Philippines. "Too bad I never experienced playing *tumbang preso* or *luksong baka*," he says, adding that he wished he had more childhood memories from the Philippines to replay in his mind.

More than good looks

But more than the good looks and the charming personality, this heartthrob can really sing. Luis, who works full time as a technical support staff in an IT company in Melbourne, could blow anyone away with his pipes as much as his pleasing physique.

"I get my drive and inspiration from the rousing response of the audience I am performing for," this former band vocalist says, adding that he dedicates his performances to fellow Pinoys abroad to inspire and remind them that the Filipinos have what it takes to be the best no matter what country they are in.

Luis, who has never been back to the Philippines since his family first left the country, adds how happy he feels whenever viewers rush backstage after his performances to tell him how they loved his show and could not wait to see him perform again. "It never fails to put a big smile on my face," he says, stressing there is nothing like performing in front of fellow Pinoys as it brings out this best in him.

For Luis, performing for an all-Filipino crowd, however, isn't always the easiest job. "Some Pinoys could be really hard to please, he says. "So when you hear the Filipino crowd roar, you know you did a very good job for sure."

Performing with countrymen

Last week, Luis performed for the Asia-Pacific leg of the Kumustahan '06 concert series in Melbourne and Sydney, where he got to open for fellow Pinoy entertainers Nanette Inventor, Geneva Cruz, and the Apo Hiking Society. "It was a special moment performing with those stars and fellow Filipinos as we got to showcase our talents on an international level," he says.

Feeling a bit nervous performing for thousands of Pinoy viewers, Luis just did what he does best: Singing and expressing his songs straight from his heart. To shake off the jitters, he just thought of "giving the people a great performance while having fun doing it."

And fun he did have as he crooned his way to win the heart of his audience. The crowd roared when he did a rap version of Hotdog's "Manila, Manila, I keep coming back to Manila!"

The man behind "Kumustahan," businessman Vic Alcuaz, was visibly pleased during and after the show. "(Luis) has a strong stage presence," he told the show director Rey Mimije. "I hope more people will support this project of bringing home entertainment to our overseas workers."

For Filipinos who are planning to go abroad especially to Australia, Luis advises not to let anyone take away their dreams of having a better life abroad. There is also no need to sell themselves short, he says, as Filipinos are still the most accommodating, appreciative, and friendliest people in the world.

He also urges his *kababayans* abroad to always look out for each other because in the end, they are all Filipinos no matter what.

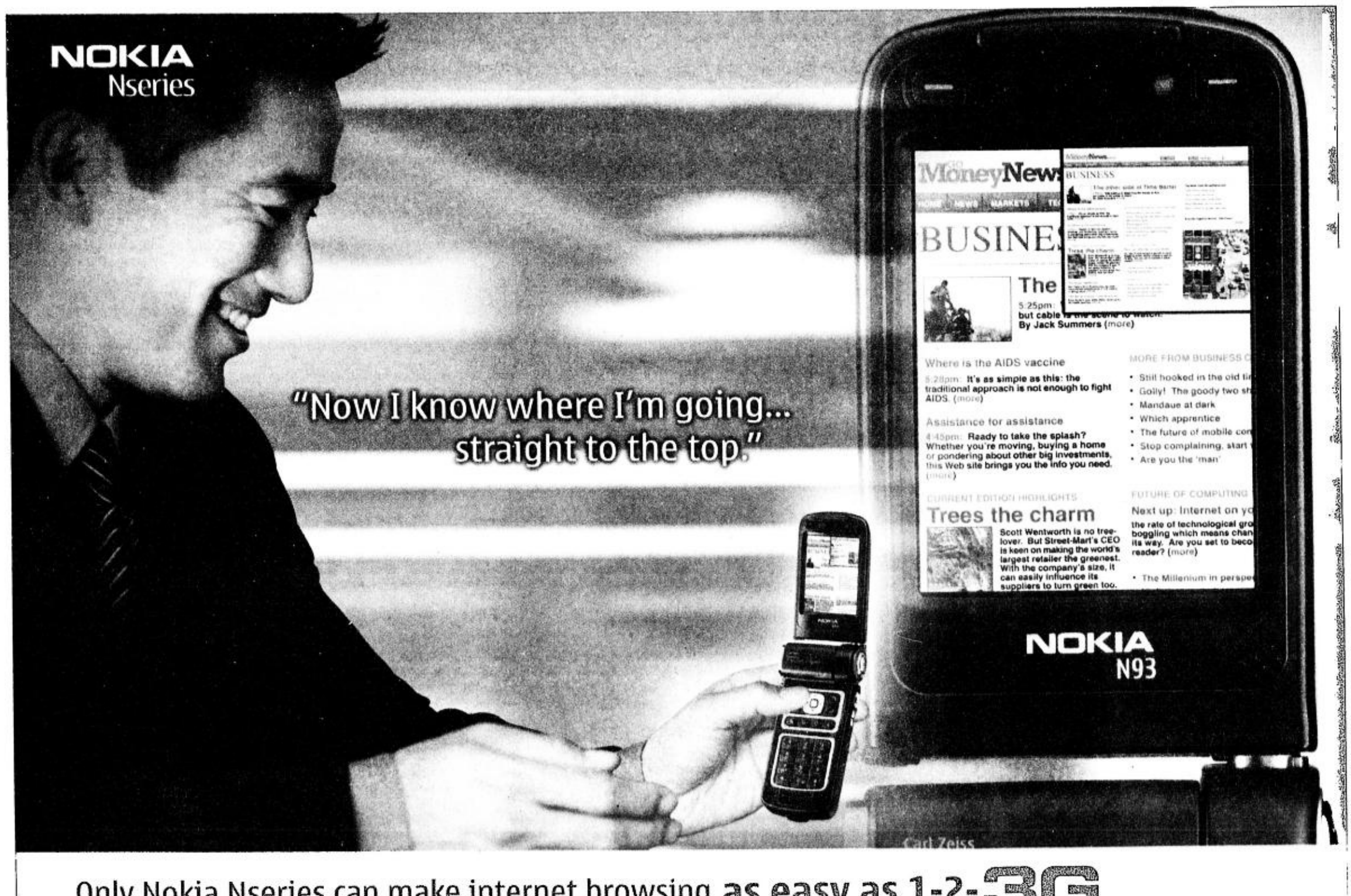
Back to the Philippines

Realizing Filipinos' love for music, Luis is actually considering launching a singing career in the Philippines someday. "Filipinos take singing into their hearts and I believe that the future holds good things for me there (Philippines)," he says, citing Gary V., South Border, and Christian Bautista (arguably his Philippine counterpart), as role models, among others.

"My time is coming along just fine," he says, adding he recognizes the rigorous work he still needs to do to achieve his goals albeit ready to face the challenges head on. "I'm pretty confident about myself. But I never get too cocky."

In the future, Luis plans on building his own business in the country which includes a recording and a film production company that would let him pursue his dreams while also helping the country's people and economy. He also wants to venture into modeling someday and to star in his own films. But right now, he is just focused on perfecting his craft and getting a record deal.

And because Luis is seriously considering doing business here in the Philippines, it is possible, he says, for this Pinoy heartthrob to actually come back and live in the country again, this time for good. "I don't see any reason why I couldn't live in the Philippines. I'd love a tropical weather for a change."



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FOR THE LOVE OF KIN

Seven young men brave the seven seas

By Franco Emman Von M. Cena

BEFORE THE CRACK OF DAWN, they are up and lively and despite the inviting comfort of their beds and the chilly morning air, they dress up hastily, with their uniforms piled up all around the room. At this early hour, they chat animatedly over what they are going to do during this new day.

Under one humble roof, seven aspiring seamen share their longtime dream of boarding the ship that could hopefully bring fortune to their families in the provinces.

First timers in the city, they found a house in Pio del Pilar, Makati. The small place, which they rent for P2,000 bedspace each, accommodates four double decks good enough to house these hopeful teenagers of Iloilo and Guimaras provinces.

DREAMERS OF FORTUNE, from left, Roniel Seguisa, Mark Joseph Gallo, Avito Castillo, Rionel Las Piñas and Noel Bilbao. Not in photo are Desmond Caro and Ian Salcedo who sailed for Panama and the United States last month. RODEL ROTONI

Staying together

Unlike teenagers who nowadays flock to Manila seeking call center jobs, these teenagers braved the city to try their luck in a maritime agency that sends out aspiring seamen.

Ian Salcedo, Desmond Caro, Noel Bilbao, Rionel Las Piñas, Avito Castillo and Roniel Seguisa completed their three-year certificate program of Marine Transportation in John B. Lacson College Foundation in Arevalo town Iloilo while Mark Joseph Gallo earned his certificate in Marine Engineering in Molo town.

After completing the course in Lacson, where they were enrolled in the star sections, they tried out the tests given by a maritime agency in Makati. Out of the graduating students in their respective schools, acing the examinations gave the seven hopefuls the ticket to the city and a step closer to fulfilling their dreams.

"It's better that we live together," said 20-year old Bilbao. "We wake up at the same time. And there's someone who would drag you to school everyday."

Study now, pay later

Living in one house made things easier to handle and cope with for these teenagers. Having housemates going through the same things one is going through is like having your very own support group. These teenagers go to training everyday together and at the end of the day, they even wait up for each other to go home. Waiting for the time they can board their respective ships is also easier since they have each other as company during the supposedly boring and disheartening wait.

To these aspiring seamen, it is fortunate that the agency handling them pays the lodging and emergency expenses while waiting for their boarding.

"It's like a 'study-now, pay-later scheme,'" Caro of Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo said. "Once we get into the ship, the company will be getting a portion of what we earn. It's like payback time."

Under the contract, the agency gets P50,000 from their earnings while on board on an installment basis. It will get a portion from the seamen's monthly income for 10 years.

Apart from the lodging expenses, the agency gives them allowance of P5,000 monthly. It also shoulders their expenses incurred during medical examinations and visa processing, the 18-year-old Las Piñas said.

But the amount is not enough to sustain their living in the metro, he added, so he still asks monthly support from his family in Lambunao, Iloilo.

Deck and engine cadets

Most of them are financially supported either by close relatives or siblings in the province.

Close to shedding tears, Castillo said that his family in Estancia, Iloilo had to sell their piece of farm to support his education while in Lacson Foundation. His family owns a sari-sari store. From time to time, his mother will ask the help of "Bombay's 5-6" lending scheme to send the nine children to school.

Called as deck and engine cadets, the entry level for aspiring seamen, they could earn an average of $400 (roughly P20,000) to as much as $900 (roughly P45,000) while on board depending on the carrier flag they will be assigned to.

Lured by the fat money awaiting them, they said that they are more than willing to brave the risks and homesickness at stake.

Like father, like son

Bilbao's father was once a seaman who was kicked out because of vices, he said.

Seguisa of Calinog, Iloilo said that a number of college students in their hometown have enrolled in marine courses since they knew that their future seems brighter on this side. "*Mabilis ang asenso ng buhay*," he added.

Eighteen-year-old Gallo of Buenavista, Guimaras also shared that he was inspired by his relatives who are mostly in the same line of job. "My father and most of my relatives are seamen. I have cousins who are, in their brood of ten, are all seamen," he said.

Saying goodbye to the country, to their friends and families, and their girlfriends would definitely be a major hurdle but they are more than ready to do that.

"I don't see a bright future for me here in the country, so I am determined to give it a shot," Bilbao said.

Castillo's girlfriend also trains for a domestic passenger ship.

Life at sea

Being a seaman is no joke, they said. Despite the good money they would earn overseas, the job carries with it the the high possibility of say, getting fingers cut or even losing one's life. They could even be hostaged like the 20 Pinoy seamen held in Somalia recently.

"Once you step on the ship, it's like one of your feet is in the grave," Seguisa said.

"You're not allowed to commit a mistake because it can cost a life," they added.

As deck cadets, they are tasked to do the menial jobs of greasing machines, scraping rust that accumulate on the ship's walls and painting the ship's interior which according to them is "as big as a cathedral" where usually only six people share the job.

"Many have died by falling off from high elevations while painting or scraping and a number have lost their fingers during 'mooring operations' when thigh-sized ropes suddenly break," they said. "There's no escaping these ropes once they hit your back."

Good, bad weather

They also have to adopt to seasickness since work doesn't stop even in bad weather. "Operations are 24/7 so this is not a so-so job," he said.

Work aside, the temptations of paying for sexual services is common to all seamen. In fact, they are commonly tagged as "womanizers."

"I will try hard not to be tempted. It's hard-earned money," Seguisa said. He added that some seamen do not know how to handle money and end up spending extravagantly for their "girls."

While waiting for their chance to finally go onboard, aspiring seamen go through the usual training process. They are asked to go to the office for some lecture refresher courses.

"We are up as early as 5 a.m to report to the office. They basically train and expose us to the life on board since work there usually starts at 6 in the morning," Seguisa said.

Asked about their future plans, they said that they would not want any of their children to become a seaman because of the harsh realities of the life at sea.

"I would rather ask them to look for other jobs," Las Piñas said.

One by one, they go

At this time, these teenagers are leaving the boarding house and the country one by one. They started as a group of seven and now, two have already left.

After grueling months of waiting, Salcedo, a native of Leon, Iloilo and a cum laude graduate of Lacson, has been sent to a Panama flagship after two months of training. He could earn there $900, Bilbao said, citing that a Panama carrier pays among the highest.

On the other hand, 19 year-old Caro, who also graduated cum laude in Lacson, was sent to a US flag carrier last July 19, a week after Salcedo's boarding.

The one-year apprenticeship program they will complete on board will finally earn them the bachelor's degree in Marine Transportation. After a year, they will again take an examination that will promote them to the next rank and hopefully could bring them closer to becoming a captain which pays $6,000 on the average.

The noise and laughter have diminished and the clutter not as much. Though they should be relieved because they now have more space to move around the room, they find it "depressing." Soon, all of them will leave.

Saying goodbye

Breaking away from the group is difficult, they say.

They know they will be assigned to different ships and would leave the house at different times. But, they said that the friendship that they have created during their stay doesn't end there. They agreed that they would meet after a year of being apprentices and would again share the same house during their review for promotions.

They promised they would meet again to tell each other stories of how they have finally realized their dreams. They will be back, they promised. And with their return, they will again support each other to fulfill more dreams and find comfort in their friendship.

Sex and the OFW in Asia's world city

By Isabel T. Escoda
Contributor

THAT OLD ADAGE ABOUT love making the world go 'round should today really be about sex making the world go 'round. In Hong Kong, which is styled as "Asia's World City," sex is everywhere—on TV, magazines, billboards, films, fashions and much else. One apparently also finds it in men's brains, since a Western psychologist has opined that the male of the species spends approximately 75 percent of his waking hours thinking about sex. (Presumably this includes Chinese men.) It is, after all, mainly men who design bizarre female fashions, create outlandish advertisements and promote hardcore pornography, thus displaying their obsession with sex.

Sex is pretty pervasive in Hong Kong. As in the West (where it all began), sex sells cars, cell phones, beauty products, clothes, appliances, even real estate developments. Advertisers who constantly bombard the public with glamorous images have long been targeting gullible consumers with disposable incomes.

They pander particularly to young people's urge to look and feel desirable, hence girls sporting low-slung jeans and miniskirts baring several inches of midriff, and tight low-cut blouses, and boys sporting the latest outfits and hair jelled into spikes to make them feel as macho as Brad Pitt. As in the West's youth culture, Hong Kong's sexual environment is thriving.

'Satisfaction guaranteed'

The foreign domestics in this Asian metropolis aren't spared the consumerist drive that uses sex as a come-on. One Pinoy monthly paper regularly runs an advert in the form of a story about a housemaid who started to wear a certain perfume on her day off and immediately attracted a handsome Westerner. Other Hong Kong media outlets run adverts by employment agencies usually showing pictures of comely Filipinas in maid's uniforms, holding a baby or a broom. The text sometimes hints at "satisfaction guaranteed."

Since Pinays have, over the years, largely populated Hong Kong households (mainly because of their country's proximity to the territory and their knowledge of English), Hong Kong men have easily found opportunities for seduction. With the foreign domestics in countless households, in markets, shops, parks and oftentimes in bars on weekends, sexual liaisons inevitably occur.

The New Makati Inn and the Boracay Pub and Disco in Wanchai district are the traditional haunts of Western men seeking attractive Pinays who frequent such places on their days off. Western women, unless they're striking beauties, don't stand a chance beside the Pinays who know how to catch a man's eye and exude an innate grace and style. (Thai women occasionally offer some competition.)

Jane Eyre syndrome

As many Western men who have married Pinays can attest, they aren't just alluring but sweet and obliging. One Australian was heard to boast that his new Pinay wife even gave him pedicures—something his first (Western) wife never did.

The Jane Eyre syndrome does indeed abound in Hong Kong, with countless Pinays ending up marrying their male bosses (sometimes displacing Western wives), or marrying single Westerners trying to earn a living in the territory. Some marriages work out, others don't.

If the husband is sensitive to cultural differences, chances of the marriage succeeding are good. Oftentimes the man must accept the fact he also has to support his partner's children left behind in the Philippines (and probably other relatives as well). If he's humane and financially able, he'll adopt the children. Such cases are fairly common.

But then there are the mismatched matings. Loutish Western men mainly seeking a sex slave (preferably one who cooks and does laundry) exist here, as in any other society. True equality between husband and wife isn't often easy to achieve, especially if the woman is from a deprived background. It's only natural for such women to dream of finding solvent men who will end their financial woes. Indeed it's a popular topic of conversation among some marriageable migrant Pinays, and even among middle-aged ones who are separated from their husbands at home.

But realizing that counting on mere romantic love can be a dicey proposition, pragmatism often takes over. Thus, just to be able to remain in Hong Kong, some Pinays choose to marry local middle class Chinese, or even struggling expatriate Pakistani and Nepali men working in low-end jobs in restaurants and construction work.

'Tai-tai'

There are, sadly, instances of comfortable Pinay housewives and professionals living in Hong Kong who look down on their underprivileged compatriots. A Manila matron who settled in the territory and circulated, along with her wealthy businessman husband, among Hong Kong's upper crust once related an incident to a friend of mine. At a sit-down dinner in one of the city's fancier homes, she happened to sit next to a Filipina who looked vaguely familiar. When she was greeted with a "Hello, Lita, remember me? It's Carmen," she realized the woman was the maid of a friend of hers who used to address her as "Ma'am." It turned out Carmen had married an expatriate executive, thus becoming a Hong Kong "Tai-tai" (society matron). "You can imagine my shock," the rich Pinay had remarked sniffily.

Living happily ever after

Such stories of the domestics' "upward mobility" are not so few and far between. Living happily ever after can be a dream come true. But the Pinay's inherently romantic nature can sometimes end sadly. One could say that the old Frank Sinatra song says it all:

I fall in love too easily/I fall in love too fast, I fall in love too terribly hard/for love to ever last.

My heart should be well schooled/for I've been fooled in the past.

But still I fall in love too easily/I fall in love too fast.

With sex producing all these multiracial and cross-cultural couplings, the hope surely lies in real harmony, and even true love, among men and women of all nationalities.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Arrests seen strengthening Bush hand on spying, Gitmo

CRAWFORD, TEXAS—WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS said Friday that the fallout from the discovery of the British bombing plot could help the administration advance its agenda in Congress. The officials cited in particular battles over supervising the warrantless eavesdropping program and how to try detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Taking the White House lead, Republicans throughout the country used the arrests of terror suspects in Britain to go on the offensive against Democrats for the second day in a row. They accused Democrats of failing to understand the nature of the terrorist threat that is facing the nation.

Aides to Republican leaders in the House said they believed that the arrests would help them make their case on other issues that will allow them to keep the focus on national security, including the call for tighter control of the southern border.

Democrats promised to engage aggressively in the newly energized debate on national security, saying they would not cede that ground.

They said they would argue that the White House and the Republican Congress had failed to provide the money necessary to protect Americans fully from the threat of terrorism and that President Bush had pursued a foreign policy, especially through the war in Iraq, that has further fueled Islamic radicals and created more potential terrorists.

By the end of the day, it was clear that the midterm elections had taken a hard turn toward the central questions of safety on the home front and each party's approach to battle terrorism.

"Yesterday simply reiterated the importance of the approach that the administration has taken," Tony Snow, the White House press secretary, said at a briefing here. He continued by listing anti-terrorism measures supported by Bush, "whether it be with the Patriot Act and the Patriot Act extension, whether it be with various surveillance techniques, of which members of Congress have been made aware."

Insisting on anonymity, a senior administration official in Washington said the attacks would add momentum to efforts to create military tribunals for Guantanamo detainees that would strictly limit defendants' rights.

Democratic leaders indicated that they had no intention of letting up their attacks against the administration over national security.

"Yesterday, Bush said we are safer today than we were before 9/11," said Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the minority leader. "But if one looks around the world today, he could not be further from the truth." *New York Times*

Israelis describe fierce enemy

HAIFA, ISRAEL—FOR AN ISraeli tank gunner, Sgt. Or Bar-On, the war in Lebanon lasted all of 90 minutes. The wounds will last a lifetime.

Bar-On's Merkava tank was sent about a mile across the Israeli border to rescue soldiers in a military bulldozer hit by Hezbollah fire in the Lebanese town of Marun al Ras on July 20. But before his crew reached the stricken bulldozer, a rocket pierced the tank's armored skin, shredding both his lower legs. They were subsequently amputated just below the knees.

"I was gushing blood, and I felt pain like I've never felt before," Bar-On said. He screamed for help and crawled out the back of the tank.

Dragged to safety by fellow soldiers, the sergeant was delivered by helicopter to the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa, about 20 miles south of the border. He arrived with extreme blood loss. "I wanted to pass out, but I knew if I did, I would die," he said.

There are dozens of wounded soldiers here in northern Israel's main hospital, and all seem to have stories of unexpectedly fierce ground battles with Hezbollah. They describe Hezbollah as heavily armed, well organized and maddeningly elusive. The fighters, well concealed in bunkers and tunnels, emerge to fire automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and antitank rockets, they say, and then quickly disappear again.

In Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon—which led to the birth of Hezbollah—Israeli troops stormed north and reached the outskirts of the capital, Beirut, within two weeks. The goal this time is limited to driving Hezbollah out of rocket range, yet it has proven far more difficult.

After a month of fighting, some 10,000 Israeli soldiers are still waging daily firefights in towns and villages that are five miles or less from the border. Of the more than 80 Israeli soldiers killed in the fighting, 45 have died in the past week as the ground campaign has intensified.

Capt. Hanoch Daub, 26, explained the difficulties of fighting an enemy who lives among the civilian population and dresses like them.

"Hezbollah is everywhere, but they are very hard to find," said Daub, who was recovering from shrapnel wounds to his face, neck and leg. "They work in small units or two or three men. They wear civilian clothes. You don't see them. You just see their fire." *New York Times*

AN ISRAELI returns in glee from combat operations in south Lebanon, Aug. 11. AFP

Taiwan president linked to funds misuse

TAIPEI—TAIWAN PRESIDENT Chen Shui-bian is expected to be questioned by prosecutors over the alleged misuse of funds appropriated for him for national affairs purposes, a report said Saturday.

Prosecutors investigating the case had found only half of the funds for which Chen's office had declared receipts and suspected that some of the money might "fall into private pockets," the United Daily News said.

The paper cited unnamed sources as saying that at least 20 people were questioned in the case but did not say when the president would be summoned.

Calls for Chen's resignation are mounting following reports that auditing authorities suspected the president had misused funds intended for national affairs.

Chen in June survived an unprecedented parliamentary recall motion to force him out two years early amid alleged corruption scandals implicating his wife and son-in-law.

The president has publicly apologized for his son-in-law, who was indicted on insider trading charges.

But he denied any wrongdoing by his wife Wu Shu-chen, questioned last month for allegedly receiving and selling department store vouchers in exchange for lobbying favors.

One of his former top aides was charged with corruption and insider trading. *AFP*

RAPT CARNIVAL AUDIENCE
Maria Parra, 5, watches dancers in the streets during the carnival in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, Aug. 11. Thousands took part in carnival festivities celebrating the 468th founding anniversary of Bogota. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

80th birthday for absent Castro

HAVANA—Cubans hung flags and decorated the "Anti-imperialist Tribunal" stage for a concert within earshot of the US mission in Havana, all to celebrate the 80th birthday of Fidel Castro—nowhere to be seen in 12 days. Castro, who turns 80 on Sunday, handed over power provisionally after undergoing intestinal surgery to his brother, Raul, 11 days ago. Neither one has been seen since. Yet the birthday party goes on, although Fidel Castro, the country's "comandante" for 48 years, asked that the celebration be postponed while he recovers. Cuban officials have insisted regularly over the past week that Castro is recuperating from surgery, and that life in the only Communist country in the Americas was "completely normal," as they did again Friday. Castro himself has always answered questions of who would lead a post-Castro Cuba by saying that the revolution would go on with him or without him. Cuba is not peppered with his portraits and statues, as if to say Cuba is something more than Castro. *AFP*

Rebels break through Sri Lanka defenses

JAFFNA, SRI LANKA—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said on Saturday they had broken through army defenses in the island's far north and were advancing on the government-held Jaffna peninsula, in the fiercest fighting since a 2002 truce. The Tigers said they had destroyed army checkpoints and were advancing along the main A9 arterial road that connects Jaffna to their stronghold. Aid workers reported pockets of fighting inside government territory near army defense lines and truce monitors received reports of fighting on beaches near Jaffna. Residents said hundreds were fleeing fishing villages near Jaffna. The military said it still controlled the whole peninsula and had killed 100 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels, but said a few might have got through. The Navy said it had sunk five Sea Tiger boats near Jaffna. *Reuters*

BP to keep oil gushing from Alaska field

WASHINGTON—BP said late Friday it would continue to pump oil from part of a giant field in Alaska, where a corroded pipeline sprang a leak last week, and aimed to raise output to 200,000 barrels per day. BP America chair Bob Malone said the British energy giant had doubled its spot inspections of an 8-kilometer segment of the pipeline serving the western part of Prudhoe Bay, America's largest oil field. "The results have been encouraging and have increased our confidence in the operational integrity of this pipeline," he said in a statement. "With greatly enhanced surveillance and response capability, I am confident we can continue to safely operate the line." When operating at full capacity, Prudhoe Bay pumps out 400,000 barrels of oil a day—8.0 percent of total US daily output. *AFP*

Iran presses Shiites to step up Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—IRAN IS pressing Shiite militias here to step up attacks against the American-led forces in retaliation for the Israeli assault on Lebanon, the American ambassador to Iraq said Friday. Iran may foment even more violence as it faces off with the United States and United Nations over its nuclear program in the coming weeks, he added.

The Iranian incitement has led to a surge in mortar and rocket attacks on the fortified Green Zone here, said the ambassador, Zalmay Khalilzad. The 4-square-mile Green Zone includes baroque palaces built by Saddam Hussein that now house the seat of the Iraqi government and the American Embassy.

The Shiite guerrillas behind the recent attacks are members of splinter groups of the Mahdi Army, the powerful militia created by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, Khalilzad said. The splinter groups have ties to Iran and to Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed, Shiite Arab militia in Lebanon that has been battling Israel for a month, the ambassador added.

There is evidence that Iran is pushing for more attacks, he said, without offering any specifics. But he acknowledged that there was no proof that Iran was directing any particular operations by militias here.

"Iran is seeking to put more pressure, encourage more pressure on the coalition from the forces that they are allied with here, and the same is maybe true of Hezbollah," Khalilzad said in an interview Friday.

Despite the recent attacks, Khalilzad insisted that the most powerful Shiite leaders in Iraq had not yet pushed for more violence against the Americans. That includes al-Sadr, he said.

"Generally the Shia leadership here have behaved more as Iraqi patriots and have not reacted in the way that perhaps the Iranians and Hezbollah might want them to," Khalilzad said. *New York Times*

Muslim groups say UK policies on Iraq, Lebanon fuel militancy

LONDON—BRITISH MUSLIM groups said on Saturday Britain's policies on Iraq and Lebanon were fueling militancy, as Pakistan said it had arrested a British al-Qaida member over an alleged plot to blow up transatlantic airliners.

A court gave British police more time to question 22 of the 24 suspects arrested in swoops on Thursday when officials said they had foiled a plot to use chemical bombs to bring down as many as 10 airliners flying from Britain to the United States.

The police crackdown, 13 months after four British Islamist suicide bombers killed 52 people on London's transport system, raised fears among British Muslims they were being demonized because of the militancy of a few.

In an open letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair, leading British Muslim groups and politicians said his foreign policies on issues such as Iraq and the Israel-Hezbollah war were putting civilians at increased risk of attack in Britain and elsewhere.

"The debacle of Iraq and now the failure to do more to secure an immediate end to attacks on civilians in the Middle East not only increases the risk to ordinary people in that region, it is also ammunition to extremists who threaten us all," they said in the letter, published in the Times newspaper.

Many Muslims are critical of Blair's decisions to commit British troops to the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq and not to call for an immediate halt to the fighting between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas.

"We urge the prime minister to redouble his efforts to tackle terror and extremism and change our foreign policy," said the letter, whose signatories included six politicians from Blair's Labor Party.

Responding to the letter, Transport Secretary Douglas Alexander told Britain's Channel 4 television: "Nothing justifies the kind of actions which terrorists perpetrate."

Pakistan said it had helped thwart the alleged plot and that two Britons of Pakistani descent were among seven suspects who had been arrested in the country.

It said one of the Britons was an al-Qaida member who had played a leading role in the foiled plot that would have involved chemical bombs being smuggled on to aircraft disguised as drinks.

"He is a British citizen of Pakistani origin. He is an al-Qaida operative with linkages in Afghanistan," Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao told Reuters.

Sherpao said the arrest of the man, identified as Rashid Rauf, had led to the arrests in Britain.

On Friday, British police released one of the 24 people arrested in Thursday's swoops without charge. A court granted police a warrant to hold 22 suspects until next Wednesday. A decision on the other suspect will not be taken until Monday.

Britain named 19 of those arrested, who were aged from 17 to 35, and ordered their assets to be frozen.

British media said the suspects were mostly British-born men of Pakistani origin, three were converts to Islam and one was believed to be a security guard at London's Heathrow airport.

Friends of those arrested said the men had led ordinary lives and had jobs such as being a taxi driver or pizza delivery man. *Reuters*

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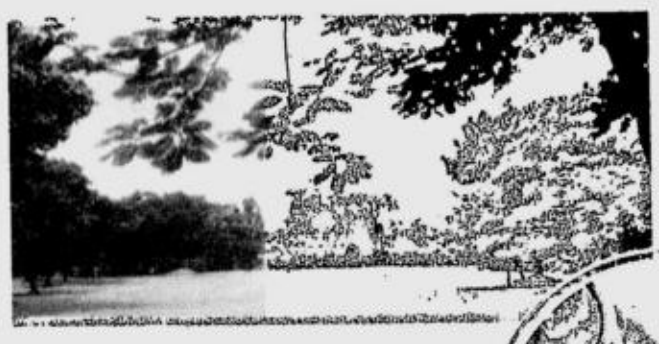

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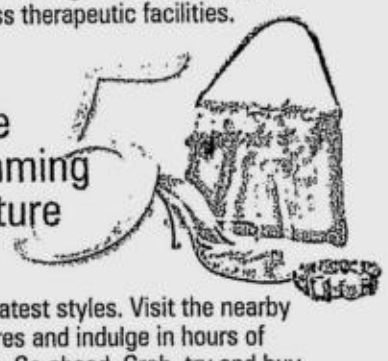

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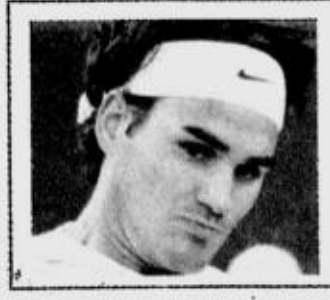

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Rampaging Tams gore Falcons

By Jasmine W. Payo

BARGING INTO THE TOP THREE SEEMED like a tall order for the Far Eastern Tamaraws early in the tournament.

But the Tamaraws did just that with a convincing 79-64 triumph over the Adamson Falcons yesterday at the start of second-round action in the UAAP senior cage wars at the Philsports Arena.

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports Arena)
2 p.m.— UP vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m — UST vs UE (Srs)

The Tamaraws, who opened the season with four straight losses, anchored their steady climb on the veteran trio of Jeff Chan, Jonas Villanueva and RB Mangahas.

Chan finished with a game-high 24 points, while Villanueva and Mangahas logged in 15 points apiece.

With their third straight victory, the Tamaraws claimed a share of third place with the Falcons at 3-4.

Regrouping in the final canto, the Tamaraws buried six of their eight three-point shots after missing nine attempts from beyond the arc in the first three quarters.

"I instructed them to shoot outside," said FEU coach Bert Flores. "(Adamson's Ken) Bono was dominating the paint so we went outside."

"The confidence is already there," added Flores. "We're playing good defense."

Hurting the Falcons' rotation was the absence of Patrick Cabahug, who finished scoreless after playing for only seven minutes due to a right knee injury. The sweet-shooting veteran averaged 16.5 points per outing in the first round.

Bono led the Falcons with 18 points.

UE-UST up

Meanwhile, the University of the East Warriors kick off their second-round campaign versus the Santo Tomas Tigers at 4 p.m. today.

Coach Dindo Pumaren expects the title-favorite Warriors to start playing to their potential after wrapping up the first round with a second-best record at 4-2.

"We've had very good practices lately, I think the players are starting to show their real game," said Pumaren. "Everyone's very aggressive in defense. The boys are moving differently, very far from our flat performance against UST."

The Warriors, who also bowed to the unbeaten Ateneo Blue Eagles, surprisingly absorbed a 91-77 whipping against the Tigers in their first encounter.

But more than the Warriors, the Tigers need all the motivation they can get after absorbing the most lopsided loss this season—a 114-78 collapse against the Eagles last Sunday.

The University of the Philippines Maroons and the National Bulldogs, both toting 2-4 cards, will collide at 2 p.m.

In yesterday's junior action, the Ateneo Blue Eaglets streaked to their seventh straight win with a 76-64 triumph over the Adamson Baby Falcons.

The Baby Falcons shared third spot (5-3) with the UP Junior Maroons, who nipped the NU Bullpups, 82-78.

In the third game, the UST Tiger Cubs routed the UE Pages, 99-85, for a 3-5 slate.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

ATENEO 74-Dumrique 13, Katipunan 12, Gamboa 10, Tiongson 6, Gonzaga 6, Aportadera 6, Austria 6, Rivera 4, Enriquez 4, Balmaceda 3, Golla 2, Gamboa 2, Valera 0, Esquievel 0.

ADAMSON 64-Aclbar 13, Vitug 12, Olalia 10, Borja 7, Albay 6, Nudo 5, Goito 4, Cano 4, Santos 2, Tadeo 1, Ceguerra 0, Alrero 0.

Quarters: 21-14, 41-23, 53-40, 76-64

Second Game (Jrs)

UP 82-Tolentino 15, Marata 15, Espiritu 13, Sanchez 9, Bautista 7, Isip 6, Buenaventura 6, Moreno 5, Lazo 4, Cruz 2, Merioles 0, Jimenez 0, Gamad 0.

NU 78-Batac 22, Berry 19, Terso 18, Jimenez 7, Guzman 7, Discaya 3, Batac 2, Guzman 0.

Quarters: 24-16, 47-37, 67-52, 82-78

Third Game (Jrs)

UST 99-Banquicio 24, Laconico 10, Reyes 14, Manuel 13, Sarsonas 10, Cunanan 9, Perez 5, Buendia 3, Imperial 2, Aquino 0, Francisco 0, Ledesma 0, De Sagon 0.

UE 85-Duran 26, Santos 12, Villegas 11, Amanon 10, Runez 10, Del Rosario 8, Borgonia 5, Monce 3, San Juan 0, Nicolas 0, Del Rosario 0, Crisostomo 0, Caparas 0, Chua 0.

Quarters: 29-16, 55-36, 81-63, 99-85

Fourth Game (Srs)

FEU 79-Chan 24, Villanueva 15, mangahas 15, Gerilla 8, Fernandez 7, Barcellano 6, Baracael 4, Reyes 0, Gonzales 0, Dela Cruz 0, Adolfo 0.

ADAMSON 64-Bono 18, Hugnatan 12, Gonzalgo 10, Agustin 7, Canuday 6, Poloyapoy 4, Pacheco 3, Santos 2, Orera 0, Gorospe 0, Cabahug 0, Basillo 0.

Quarters: 17-22, 36-37, 46-48, 79-64

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Welcoat expects rough sailing in maiden stint

WITH ALMOST HALF OF THE players fresh from the amateur ranks and the rest pro discards, even the owners doubt whether the Welcoat Dragons could make an immediate impact in the Philippine Basketball Association this season.

Expecting rough times ahead, co-team owners Raymond Yu and Terry Que said they would propose a handicapping system where the Dragons could get a reinforcement taller than the prescribed height limit in the import-laced conference.

"Our immediate goal is to have a respectable finish for the first conference," said Que of the Dragons' initial test in the All-Filipino tournament kicking off this October.

"Hopefully, the PBA could come out with a handicapping system in the second conference where the weaker teams are allowed to get a taller import," he added.

If the league pegs the import height ceiling at 6-foot-6, the Welcoat officials said they would lobby for a 6-foot-10 reinforcement at the most.

The Dragons have elevated rookies Junjun Cabatu, Jay Sagad and Jay-R Reyes from their amateur team in the Philippine Basketball League and also brought along Welcoat top gunner Jercules Tangkay, a free agent in the PBA.

After conducting tryouts last week and plucking three players from the dispersal draft, the Dragons have now added Froilan Baguion, Nino Gelig, Gilbert Lao, Rob Wainwright, Adonis Sta. Maria and Joey Mente to their roster.

Next week's PBA rookie draft will complete the team's roster. Selecting 10th and 11th overall, Welcoat plans to pick either Letran's Aaron Aban, Mark Andaya or Boyet Bautista if they are still available by then.

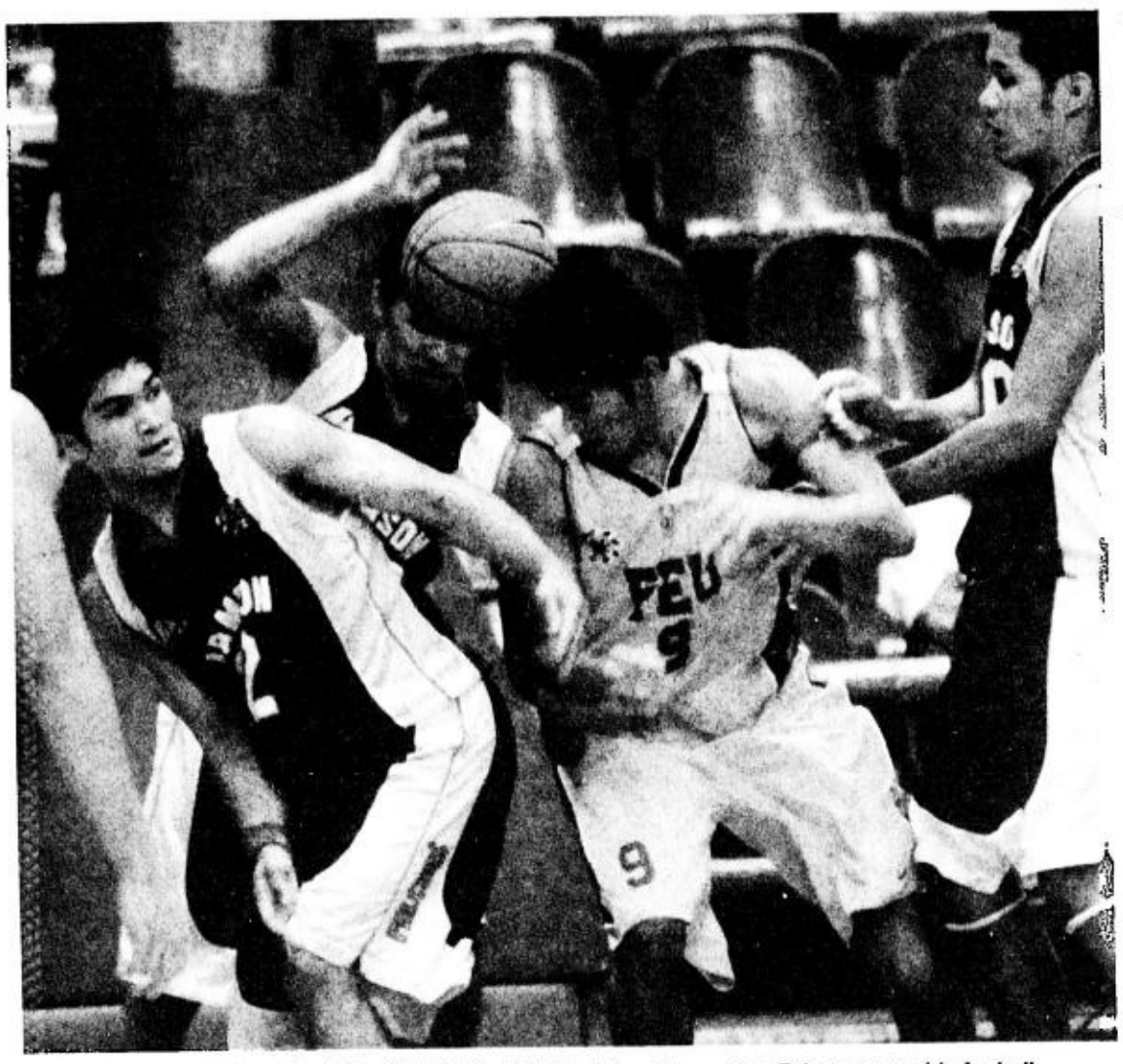
"We will definitely struggle. I hope the PBA would give us the luxury of having a taller import so we wouldn't be beaten up badly," said Yu.

"Besides, getting a bigger import doesn't guarantee anything and the talented ones would already be playing either in Europe or professional leagues in China or Japan by then."

In the early years of the PBA, teams were allowed to hire taller imports except Crispa and Toyota to maintain the balance of power in the league.

"It has been done before and the PBA can do it again," noted Yu.

Leo Austria will coach the Dragons with Caloy Garcia as his assistant. Corporate lawyer Mamerto Mondragon was designated Welcoat governor while Boy Lapid will be one of the team's managers. *June Navarro*



ADAMSON'S Paul Gonzalgo (12), FEU's Alfred Gerilla (9) and two other Falcons scramble for ball possession in their game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PBA-backed Nat'ls vs Lebanese today

By June Navarro

UPHOLDING ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL squad, six Philippine Basketball Association teams have agreed to lend their best players for the RP-Lebanon series starting today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Talk 'N Text has allowed Jimmy Alapag, Don Allado, Renren Ritualo and Asi Taulava to don the national colors along with Mick Pennisi and Larry Fonacier of Red Bull, Alaska's Mike Cortez and Willie Miller and Ranidel de Ocampo of Air21.

Also suiting up for the RP squad are Rafi Reavis and Billy Mamaril of Barangay Ginebra and Coca-Cola's Dennis Miranda in the two-game exhibition series many thought would be cancelled due to Lebanon's ongoing armed conflict with Israel.

The Lebanese, Asia's No. 2 team behind China, are on their way to the world basketball championship starting Aug. 19 in Saitama, Japan.

Only six players attended the RP team practice last week, forcing national coach Chot Reyes to ask help from the PBA through commissioner Noli Eala for the series, slated today at 6 p.m. and on Aug. 16 at the Araneta Coliseum, to push through.

Reyes had contemplated on asking Eala to replace the national team with a regular pro ball club to face the Lebanese national team, the Fiba-Asia Men's Championship runner-up.

"Looks like a solid team," said Eala, who burned the phone lines with PBA teams the night before to help save the series. "It is a testament to their commitment to the RP team that the ball clubs came forth and offered their players."

Reyes, however, would be unavailable to coach the team, at least for today, due to a previous commitment by San Miguel Beer to play in an invitational pro tournament in Taipei.

SMB management had earlier named Reyes as new Beermen head coach a week ago, replacing Jong Uichico, who took over from Siot Tanquingcen at Barangay Ginebra.

Norman Black, 1989 PBA grand slam coach with San Miguel and the current Ateneo Blue Eagles mentor, will sub for Reyes, who hopes to return by Aug. 16 in time for the second exhibition game.

Black, national coach during the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, supervised the RP team practice the last two days.

Tickets for the game is pegged at P100 for ringside and P50 for lower box. The upper box is open to the public.

Lebanon beat Canada, without Steve Nash, last week, just a day after falling to Slovenia, a former Russian republic in exhibition games.

The Lebanese arrived Friday afternoon from Jordan via Qatar Airways. They are billeted at the Crowne Plaza Galleria in Ortigas.

Heat Seeker, Helix NBA show big hit

THE HELIX AND THE HEAT SEEKER, SPALDing's newest basketball which showcases the latest in design and technology, were a hit in the NBA Madness.

Philadelphia 76ers guard Andre Iguadala and New York Knicks forward Channing Frye could not help but rave about the unique Spalding basketballs that they signed during the annual festival for NBA fans in the Philippines.

Joven Babaan, head of Spalding's exclusive Philippine distributor Proline Sportscenter, said that the NBA players were amazed at the latest technology used by Spalding in its basketballs.

"Even they were surprised how Spalding could still come up with something new for something as old as the basketball," said Babaan. "They were excited about the new designs and immediately accepted the changes in their play."

At Proline's booth in NBA madness camps, Babaan said the Spalding "Heat Seeker" was the biggest hit by far.

The Heat Seeker has a one-of-a-kind heat-adopting red composite leather panels that changes color from red to yellow to yellow-orange when touched leaving a distinguishable palm print. These panels are bright red at low room temperature and turn to yellow at high room temperature. The Heat Seeker has high impact ball graphics and is made of composite material and construction for a true performance level basketball game.

The Helix, on the other hand, is a high-performance, composite-leather which boasts a unique reverse pebble pattern in honey-combed designs that creates unique touch points.

The Heat Seeker and Helix are part of Spalding's drive to improve basketball technology from making the first basketball in 1894, the first synthetic leather basketball in 1972, the first composite leather basketball in 1992, and the first and only ball with a built-in micro pump, in 2001.

Guiao seeks 'milestone' title again

By Musong R. Castillo

YENG GUIAO WOULD LIKE TO CALL IT a "milestone" rather than an "obsession."

"I am guarding myself against the emotion if it becomes an obsession," Guiao said, referring to the All-Filipino crown which has eluded him in a successful Philippine Basketball Association coaching career.

"But winning it would be a big thing for me, because it would make me complete," Guiao added. "While others think of grand slams, consecutive titles and such as milestones, an all-Filipino title is it for me."

While most of the other teams are shaking up their rosters like crazy, Guiao wants to keep his Red Bull squad intact when he resumes chase of his "milestone" starting in October.

And unless Guiao lands someone like Larry Fonacier with the eighth overall pick in the annual Rookie Draft on Aug. 20, he feels he already has the tools to land the big fish, so to speak.

GUIAO

Guiao also reacted to a recent published story (not in the INQUIRER) that said at least one powerhouse team is terribly interested in acquiring streak-shooting Lordy Tugade through a trade.

It was an idea Guiao said would not get off the ground, if he has his way.

"I don't want to break up the team," Guiao said. "And that includes Lordy."

Guiao, who is also the vice governor of Pampanga, has won four titles, two each with defunct Swift and Red Bull. All were in import-spiced tournaments, and Yeng certainly wants to get the tag of a great import's coach off his back.

He was responsible for bringing the likes of Ronnie Thompkins and Tony "The Hurricane" Harris here, as well as versatile Antonio Lang and James Penny who helped the Photokina Franchise to its first two PBA titles.

And Guiao can't help but look back at how close the last Philippine Cup Finals ended, even though Purefoods closed out the Barako, 4-2, in the best-of-seven series.

"It was a one-game difference, we were that close," said Guiao. "Had we not thrown away Game 1, I think we could have pulled it off (in Game 7). I have so much confidence in my players. We have never lost a Game 7."

Barangay Ginebra has beefed up with two controversial acquisitions early in the off-season and teams coming from the San Miguel umbrella are expected to initiate more trades and make all four teams formidable.

Talk 'N Text remains rock-solid with Asi Taulava inking an extension, Alaska will continue to be formidable under Tim Cone and a backcourt made up for former MVP Willie Miller and Mike Cortez.

Definitely, the coming season, which opens with the Philippine Cup, will not be a cakewalk in Yeng's aspirations to finally complete his trophy case.

"If I don't win it, I can accept it," Guiao said. "But it won't be without a good fight."

SSC-Cavite nears sweep

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE-CAVITE beat St. Clare College-Caloocan, 60-55, to move within two games of completing a sweep of the elimination round in the 2006 Naascu Men's basketball tournament at the SSC gym in Cavite.

Glenn Bolocon scattered 25 points and P.J. Villaver added 13 points for the Baycats of coach Edgar Macaraya and assistant coach Noy Catalan.

Gerald Geraldino paced St. Clare with 11 points.

In the women's division SSC-Cavite downed St. Clare, 82-70, to complete a double celebration.

Grace Dadal topscored for the Lady Baycats with 28 points, followed by Sally Mcneal with 21, Ana Caganap with 16 and Theresa Nazareno with 11.

STANDINGS	W	L
SSC-Cavite	7	0
AMA	4	1
STI	3	2
New Era	3	2
CEU	3	2
UM	2	4
PLP	2	4
UMak	2	4
St. Clare	2	5
Holy Angel	1	5

Nerissa Yanson led St. Clare with a game high 37 points.

The scores:

First Game—Women's

SSC-CAVITE 82—Dadal 28, Mcneal 21, Caganap 16, Nazareno 11, Bustero 3, Del Rosario 3, S. Garcia 0, R. Garcia 0, Isla 0, Sarimo 0, Advincula 0.

ST. CLARE 70—Yanson 37, Gelacio 13, Calizo 11, Galedo 5, Severino 2, Marana 2, Laceda 0, Vicencio 0, Padpad 0, Marquezes 0, Buatis 0.

Quarters: 20-17, 35-35, 53-50, 82-70

Second Game—Men's

SSC-CAVITE 60—Bolocon 25, Villaver 13, Cenita 8, Villareal 7, Gracilla 4, Panes 2, Echavez 1, Lucernas 0, Maconocido 0, Sabejon 0, Villanueva 0.

ST. CLARE 55—Geraldino 11, Cabral 10, Manio 8, Coronel 7, Badley 6, Torres 5, Pancho 5, Buquid 3, Vallenzona 0, Diswe 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 21-28, 40-40, 60-55

ROUTE CHECK: Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong (left) tries the Milo 5K fun route at the SBMA yesterday morning with Vice Mayor Rolen Paulino (second from left), local organizer of today's Milo Marathon elimination leg in Olongapo City. With them are Rudy Biscocho, National Milo Marathon organizer, and Eden Maningat. Paulino assembled 13,000 runners for today's run, making it the biggest in the area.

Tagaytay eyes Malaysia title

BACK-TO-BACK CHAMPION TAGAYTAY CITY aims to bring home the revolving trophy when the 2006 Merdeka Rapid Open Chess Team Championships is held Aug. 19-20 at the Mid Valley Mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tagaytay City Mayor and National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) secretary general Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino Jr. will bankroll the trip of the team composed of GMs Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr., Nelson Mariano II, NM Ronald Llavanes and Truman Hernaez.

"I am hoping that we'd win again this year," said Tolentino. "I have confidence in my players, but the competition is tougher this time. China, Indonesia and Singapore would surely send strong teams." *Marlon Bernardino*

Marksmanship training gets Thermax support

KAUSTUBH A. Pathak (third from left) shakes hands with PNSA secretary general Donald Padilla to seal Thermax's sponsorship. From left: Jermel Santiago, Mahesh Kulkarni, PNSA pistol committee chair Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and pistol committee member Robbie Hermoso.

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SHOOTING ASsociation's first Airgun Marksmanship Training Seminar for junior aspirants starts on Aug. 26 at the Fort Bonifacio Marine Range with Thermax Ltd., a leading company in the energy and environment sector as sponsor.

A $500 million company which specializes in biomass and coal-fired equipment, Thermax Ltd. and the PNSA came to terms Friday, giving the shooting association's search for future stars a big boost.

"We have been doing business here (Philippines) for decades now," said Thermax country manager Kaustubh A. Pathak. "We have good business partners, like shooting champion Tac (Padilla), so we decided to help one of his association's projects."

Pathak signed the sponsorship deal with newly appointed PNSA secretary general Donald Padilla and his brother Tac, chair of the PNSA's pistol committee.

Pathak was accompanied by two other Thermax officials—technical manager Mahesh Kulkarni and Philippine representative Jermel Santiago.

The seminar is open to boys and girls aged 12 to 21. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Among the trainers are Bartolome Teyab, Moises Gines Jr., Andres Maer, Oscar de Leon and Albert Adriano.

Contact Apaul Cabrera or Mario Dasalla at 636-0627 and 636-0635 from Monday to Friday and 893-2893 on Saturday and Sunday for details. Deadline for registration is Aug. 20.

Olivarez rips foe, advances to semifinals

FAVORITE SHANNIN OLIVAREZ SWAMPED CRI tabelle Paulino, 6-0, 6-1, yesterday to reach the girls' 12-under semifinals of the Olivarez Age Group Tennis Championships at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque City.

The 12-year-old Olivarez will meet Tamitha Nguyen, who scored a 7-5, 6-4 victory over Crizabelle Paulino in the other quarterfinal match.

Olivarez, a grade 7 student at the Brent International School in Biñan, Laguna, is eyeing her fourth title this year. She won the Olivarez Cup in May, Philta Classic-San Pablo Cup in April and Andrada Cup in January.

In other matches, second seed Patsy Orteza beat Samantha Coyiuto, 6-1, 6-4, to advance against unranked Ericka Lagura, who upset fourth seed Joana Peña, 6-7, 6-4 (10-8).

In the boys division, top seed Mark Balce outclassed No. 8 Perene Alina, 6-1, 6-1, to advance to the 16-under semifinals against No. 5 Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, who eliminated No. 4 Kyle Cordero, 6-1, 6-1.

Cordero bounced back in the 14-under division as the top seed downed No. 8 Tavyn Libao, 6-1, 6-0. Joining Talatayod in the next round were No. 2 Jose Lorenzo Ferrer, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over No. 5 Dheo Talatayod, and No. 3 Leander Lazaro, who beat No. 7 John Ribaya, 6-1, 6-0.

Talatayod, seeded No. 1 in the 12-under class, downed No. 5 Jose Lorenzo Ferrer, 6-1, 6-3, to advance to the semifinals against No. 3 Arjohn dela Cruz, who survived No. 7 Mark Escares, 7-5, 7-6 (10-3). Also advancing was No. 6 Juan Alfonso Opulencia, who rallied past unranked John Ribaya, 0-6, 6-4 (10-2).

GIRLS' 12-under top seed Shannin Olivarez hits a double-handed backhand return against Critabelle Paulino during their quarterfinals match. Olivarez won, 6-0, 6-1.

Juvenile Series kicks off today

By Musong R. Castillo

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE FUTURE STRUT their stuff in a stage made just for them as seven entries each in the Juvenile Fillies and Colts Stakes Races battle it out today for a total pot of P2.4 million at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Each race offers P1.2 million with P720,000 going to the winner. Both races are slated over 1,450 meters.

Speedy Que Sera Sera is tipped as the first choice in the Fillies' division, while Account of Grace progeny Macho Man looms as the top pick in the Colts' race later in the afternoon.

Antonio Alcasid Jr. skippers Macho Man, the precocious bay colt out of Tumataginting who could be in position to nail down a double kill for the overpowering Hermie Esguerra stables if Landed Visa or Condoleeza spring an upset in the Fillies' race earlier.

Superamerica, the Khozaam out of Sign of Spring son who will be ridden by Fernando Raquel, and Mr. Cutter (Mr. Sutter-Wad Cutter) are tipped as Macho Man's chief threats in the Colts' race set to be flagged off at 5:25 p.m.

Jeffryl Zarate rides Mr. Cutter, who will be coming off his Maiden race victory just two weeks ago, clocking 1 minute and 33 seconds over the same distance in the same track.

Tiger Raffy, the seasoned chestnut by Turn Tiger out of Good Grace, will make his 20th start in this track and is a good long shot bet. The Patty Dilema-steered Tiger Raffy has a career-best 1:32 effort he set last month.

Whilly Nilly (Val Dilema), Storm Hall (Dominador Borbe) and Iron Tower (John Guce) round out the entries in the Colts' division, which will also award P270,000 to the second placer, P150,000 to third and P60,000 to fourth like the Fillies' race.

These races actually mark the start this year of the Juvenile Series, which produced a dominating entry like Juggernaut last year.

Juggernaut was touted as a bright Triple Crown hope after graduating from the juvenile ranks in overpowering style last season until a foot injury that needed surgery to repair took her out of the TC. She is in semi-retirement until now.

The breeders of the winning entries will also receive P72,000 from the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission.

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Magiliw (5), Brazen Truth (6), Golden Issue (4), Fancy Dancer (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Sweet Luvin (4), BMI Baby (8), Queen Esther (5), Golden Rhythm (2)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—El Love Senora (3), Don Ramon (4), St. Germian (5), Head Turner (2)
Race 4—Straight Forward (3), Marapangi moon (5), Khokwak (1), She's Coming (7), Golden Music (2)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Landed Visa/Condoleeza (2), Royal Academy (3), Bachelor of Arts (1), Que Sera Sera (3)

RACING
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Roagl Times (5), Clear Stone (8), Ferrarione (1), Bunker Buster (6)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Superamerica (4), Mr. Cutter (5), Macho Man (7), Tiger Raffy (1)
Race 8—(Penta/OrtTri)—Now Showing (4), Napa Valley (9), Modern Classic (3), Drink N Drink/Unang Apo (10), Dondon's entry (5)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/TRI)—Nitty Gritty (5), Quismodo (3), He's A Balong (10), Hoy Sobra Na (7), Prince Valiant (2)
Race 10—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Hidalgo/Yao Man (3), Mountain Eagle (4), Striking Thunder (6), Parrot Moe (7)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Rivaldo (9), I Remian (4), Empire Lady (6), Loavable Trisha (10), Kalashnikov (3)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—kawiliwili/Mesmerize (5), Gutsy (7), Prickly Heat (4), Morning Nell (3)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Graceful Conqueror (7), revelation (10), Ingay Ingay (2), Angel Reyes (1), awesome Power (4), Snow Princess (3)

Sizzling start for Alabang

ALABANG IS OFF TO A BIG START IN THE 2006 Women's Golf Association of the Philippines Circuit and has built a comfortable lead in the WGAP Cup race.

After four legs of the eight-tournament circuit, Alabang has accumulated 18 points on two leg victories in Class B and one in Class C.

Alabang won the Class B division in both the first and second legs played at Villamor and Forest Hills and took Class C in last month's fourth stop at Mt. Malarayat.

Sta. Elena needed a big showing in the fourth leg where it posted two runner-up finishes and one third place to tie Manila Southwoods for second place overall at 10 points.

Villamor and Forest Hills share fourth spot with similar 9 points while Riviera is in sixth place at 6 points. Navy and Valley have two points each and Tagaytay Highlands a point.

The top five teams after eight legs will qualify for the WGAP Match Cup slated in four different courses in November.

The fifth event was hosted recently by Manila Southwoods. The last three legs are scheduled at Tagaytay Midlands on Sept. 18-19, Canlubang on Oct. 2-3 and Sta. Elena on Oct. 23.

WGAP is in the thick of preparations for the annual Luzvimin Invitational on Aug. 23-25 at the Cebu Country Club.

The list of champions per division for the last four legs include Villamor, Sta. Elena, Southwoods and Forest Hills in Class A, Alabang (first and second), Forest Hills and Riviera in Class B, and Villamor, Forest Hills, Aguinaldo and Alabang in Class C.

CSI4 criterium race starts Aug. 19

THE COUNTRY'S PREMIER CYCLISTS and hundreds of aspiring riders hit the road anew when the 4th Cycling Search Invitational (CS14) reels off on Saturday, Aug. 19 at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.

Slated to coincide with the celebration of Araw Ng Quezon City in cooperation with the city government led by Mayor Sonny Belmonte, this year's kick-off leg starts at 8 a.m. Mayor Belmonte has been invited to open the race.

The criterium race, presented by Philpost and sponsored by PCSO, Lamoiyan Corp., Landbank, Smart, Speed, Pagcor and Burlington will have four categories on tap, including the People's Race, a special race for riders residing within the vicinity of the leg's venue.

The three other categories are Elite Men/Women, Masters and Pro-Open.

Louie Carlos, Philpost assistant postmaster general and chief organizer of the event, said the Quezon City leg is the first of 10 criterium races to be held in major cities in the country in the next nine months to end in May 2007.

The other legs will be in Malolos, Bulacan; Tagaytay City; Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Alabang, Muntinlupa; Tarlac City, Tarlac; San Fernando, Pampanga; Baguio City; Dagupan City and Cebu City.

Former tour champion and veteran international campaigner Victor Espiritu, last year's champion in the pro category, will again pursue individual honors while anchoring Philippine Army along with Merculio Ramos. Bernard Luzon, the 2005 runner-up, will skipper the San Leonardo squad.

Other riders to watch include Sherwin Diamsay of Hubert Hubs & Wheels; Joseph Milanes of Duathlon; Elmer Atilano of Agnes Bakeshop; Joel Calderon of Sports Radio Reli Tour; Benito Lopez of Diony Auto Supply; Johnny Bautista of Tarlac City and Lloyd Reynante of GHQ-HSC.

The event, organized by Treo Sales & Management Corp., have DZSR Sports Radio, NU 107 FM, YES 101.FM. Siklista Magazine, Daily Tribune, Malaya, The Manila Times, Manila Standard Today, Business Mirror, Mirror Magazine and Philippine Graphic as media partners.

VICTOR Espiritu (left) will be the rider to watch.

Archer tops champions challenge as Manalo falters

JOHNNY Archer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

FIVE-TIME WORLD CHAMPION JOHNny Archer of the United States beat Filipino Marlon Manalo and German Thorsten Hohman in succession to rule the International Challenge of Champions Friday at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Connecticut.

The 37-year-old American, voted as the USA's Player of the Year eight times, needed a tiebreaker both times to bag the $50,000 winner-take-all prize.

In the semifinals, Archer bucked a 3-5 loss in the first set to beat Manalo, 5-1, in the second set and forge a one-rack sudden death. He won the lag and ran out the table to enter the finals against Hohmann, who tamed Manalo in the finals of the recent International Pool Tour 8-ball shoot-out in Las Vegas.

Hohmann took the first set, 5-2, in the finals, but Archer bounced back in the second, 5-1, to force a one-rack sudden death.

Archer won the lag but let Hohmann back in the table. In the end, Archer got the better of his rival in safety exchanges to pocket the title.

En route to the finals, Hohmann blanked last year's winner Fong Pang Chao of Taiwan, 5-1, 5-3, in the semis.

The other participants were the Netherlands' Alex Lely and Niels "The Terminator" Feijen, Germany's Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet and the Philippines' Santos Sambajon.

Manalo and Sambajon will try to bounce back in the 2006 Blaze Pro-Am 9-ball at the Castle Billiards in East Rutherford, New Jersey, Aug. 12-13.

This was revealed yesterday by Ramon "Maestro Monching" Mistica, in a long distance interview.

Mistica, who beat Filipino pool legend Jose "Amang" Parica in the Philippine 9-Ball Open held in Makati City in the '70s, and 2006 Japan Open champion Antonio "Nickoy" Lining will also join the tournament. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Carapiet grabs 2006 Rotax Invitational Challenge title

OVERALL WINNERS (from left) Maico Angeles, fifth overall; Daniel Cleak, second overall; Ivan Carapiet, champion; Marlon Stockinger (with baby brother), third overall; and Alessandra Madrigal, fourth overall.

IVAN CARAPIET RULED THE 2006 ROTAX Invitational Challenge after driving steadily on a damp racetrack during the final race of the series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines last weekend.

The 20-year-old Carapiet led the standings going into the fifth and final round of the series. Knowing that he had enough points to take the title, the 2004 Formula Toyota champion and TV actor settled into a comfortable pace, avoiding mishaps and settling for fourth place.

The race was won by Rotax Max World Championship veteran Marlon Stockinger, while 10-year-old karting prodigy Alessandra Madrigal drew raves from spectators with a remarkable performance that saw her outwit more experienced competitors to take second place.

Carapiet, Daniel Cleak, Stockinger, Madrigal and Maico Angeles thus emerged as the top five in the series sponsored by ING Banking, Pitts, Petron, Chicago City Day School, Ford Global City, Nissan Gallery and Klassik BMW.

The country's best karters, including 2004 Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli and Italian Karting Series campaigners Mark Bumgarner and Stefano Marcelo, also took part.

In the Cadet 85 category, Vencer Suba carted away the championship followed by brother Vei-Ar and third placer Renz Pascoguin.

NCFP slates Asiad elims

THE COUNTRY'S TOP WOOD pushers will be vying for slots in the qualification tournament to determine Team Philippines' composition in the 2006 Asian Games slated Dec. 1-15 in Doha, Qatar.

This was revealed by National Chess Federation of the Philippines tournament chair Willie Abalos.

Organized by the board of directors of the NCFP headed by president Congressman Prospero "Butch" Butch Pichay and Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino Jr., the event will be held Sept. 1-8 at the entertainment area of SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

A minimum 11-round will be applied depending on the number of entries. Marlon Bernardino

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA

OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids & Awards Committee is inviting interested Manufacturers, Wholesalers, and Exclusive Distributors/Suppliers in the pre-eligibility and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of Drugs and Medicines/ Medical/Surgical/ Laboratory/ X-ray & Dental Supplies and Office/ Janitorial/ Electrical Supplies for the different Offices/ Hospitals in the Province of Isabela

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

Project Name & Reference No.	ABC	Availability of Bid Documents	Bid Document Cost	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline of Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
01 – Supply of Drugs and Medicines for various hospitals in the province	P11,900,000.00	August 22-25 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	P10,000.00	September 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela
02 – Supply of Medical/ Surgical/ Dental/ X-Ray/ Laboratory	P4,000,000.00	August 22-25 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan Isabela	P4,000.00	September 7, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol Alibagu Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall Capitol, Alibagu Ilagan, Isabela
03 – Supply of Office/ Janitorial/ and Electrical Supplies for various offices/ hospitals in the Province of Isabela	P1,700,000.00	August 22-25 2006 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	P1,500.00	September 7 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 9:30 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela	September 19, 2006, 10:00 a.m. at the FN Dy Hall, Capitol, Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

Complete set of bid documents may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Ilagan, Isabela, by the eligible suppliers/ dealers after payment of non-refundable Bidding fee specified above at the Provincial Treasurer's Office

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal has been stated by the BAC as the most advantageous to the Provincial Government and the right to confiscate the bid bond and/or pursue appropriate legal action should the winning bidder refuse to accept the award.

Further, the Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in participating in this undertaking, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 13 & 20, 2006)

NCR lady booters regain nat'l crown

By Cedelf P. Tupas
Inquirer Visayas

DUMAGUETE CITY—SUBSTITUTES Edna Agravante and Jessica Ryon struck in the second half as National Capital Region FA downed Negros Oriental FA, 3-1, yesterday to capture the PFF National Women's Open football championship at the muddy Silliman pitch here.

The diminutive Agravante was the linchpin of the NCR attack in the second half despite nursing injuries on her thighs and foot while Most Valuable Player Stephanie Peasant provided the leadership on defense that allowed the Manilenos to avenge their 2004 championship loss to Davao on penalties.

The 21-year-old Peasant, who also copped the best defender award, showcased her skills to set off NCR's attack from the backline.

Coming in for Fiona McKenzie at halftime, Agravante, who emerged as the tournament's best striker with 11 goals, scored in the 50th minute on a right-footed shot inside the box off a cross from Dorelyn Mendaza from the right.

Midfielder Jessica Ryon put the outcome beyond doubt in the 90th minute, just three minutes after she was sent in for Clarissa Lazaro.

"I had confidence in my players. I think the goal by NORFA only fire them up," said NCR Hans Smit, whose team advanced to the finals with a thrilling 3-1 shootout victory against 2005 champion Davao, the same team that denied NCR the title two years ago in Marikina.

"That was payback for me because we lost to Davao on penalties in the finals in 2004. This year, we denied them a place in the finals," said Smit.

Samantha Bermudez broke the ice for NCR in the 31st minute with a header that bounced off the top post and moved past the goal line.

But Negros Oriental, marking its first finals appearance in the tournament, provided a glimmer of hope in the 79th minute when substitute Jessica Moldez broke free from two defenders and scored with her left foot just inside the box to beat Louise Navarro.

PFF president Juan Miguel Romualdez said the the top players in the final four teams could easily reinforce and strengthen the national team.

Peasant, the back-to-back UAAP MVP winner, saved NCR from defeat against Davao Friday when she made a free kick just outside the box in the 72nd minute, 10 minutes after the Davaoeñas went ahead.

WINNER: Sweden's Susanna Kallur (right) battles Germany's Kirsten Bolm in the women's 100m hurdles final at the 19th European Athletics Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, Friday. Kallur won ahead of Ireland's Derval O'Rourke and Bolm. AFP

Makati Football Club tops Danish meet

THE MAKATI FOOTBALL CLUB bagged the boys' 11-and-under division crown of the Denmark Football Festival in Aarhus, Denmark, to cap its recent three-nation European campaign.

Starring Carlos Monfort, son of former Philippine Football Federation general secretary Chris Monfort, and Filipino British Thomas Booth, the Makati booters blanked English club Surrey Elite, 2-0, in the finals to capture the title.

Monfort, an 11-year-old Ateneo de Manila fifth-grader, and Booth, a Cebu International School student, earlier combined to whip AIA-Tranjberg, 3-0, in the semifinals and advance to the championship match.

In all, the Makati Football squad, backed by the National Capital Region Football Association, won six of its seven matches, only losing to a Norwegian side, 0-1, in the elimination round.

Monfort earned Most Valuable Player honors in the tournament, where 200 clubs from 15 countries saw action.

"Monfort is a natural striker. All he needs is more polishing and training," said Tomas Lozano, MFC president and delegation head.

The other team members were Pepe Berba, Gabriel Borja, Emmanuel Cunningham, Daniel Hestevold, Daniel Melrose, Takuya Sato, Yosuke Suzuki and Julian Matthews. Former national player Ignacio Vicente coached them.

Lozano thanked the NCRFA, led by president Jose Vito Borromeo, the Philippine Football Federation and the Philippine Sports Commission for backing their trip.

The delegation was composed of 60 football-playing children aged from 10 to 16 years old who also competed in the Costa Blanca Cup in Benidorm, Spain, and the Gothia Cup in Goteborg, Sweden.

The Makati Football Club has been fielding teams in the Gothia Cup, considered the biggest youth football tournament in the world, for the past 24 years since 1983.

TEAM members of the Makati Football Club whoop it up after winning the boys' 11-and-under division of the recent Denmark Football Festival.

Southwoods invitational Wednesday

THE MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF AND Country Club ushers in a new season with the staging of the annual Invitational golf tournament scheduled Aug. 16 to 19 in Carmona, Cavite.

The Invitational, a two-man team competition composed of a member and his guest, will showcase to the club members the improvements done to the Masters course, masterpiece layout of legendary Jack Nicklaus, in time for the rainy season.

Organizers on Friday said they expect this year's tournament to be another slam-bang affair as it stakes more than P7.5 million worth of holes-in-one and raffle prizes highlighted by a brand new Mitsubishi Lancer GLX car courtesy of Mitsubishi Motors and Diamond Motors.

An 8-day, 7-night Alaskan cruise package plus business tickets for two from Royal Caribbean and Korean Air and a complete Wilson iron set also await the lucky ace-makers in the event sponsored by Information Professionals Inc., Gainers, MRT, Nestlé, Sam Miguel Corp. and Universal Robina Corp.

A vacation package for two at El Nido and P100,000 worth of Samsung products are up for grabs in the Invitational also backed by APGC, Bayo, Citibank, CJH Dev. Co., Club Leisure, Dunlop, Filsports, Golden Oats, Golforce, Mejore, Philippine Wine Merchant, Pisanti, Vein Care Clinic, Virgin Beach and Warbird.

"In case nobody makes a hole-in-one, these prizes mentioned will be raffled off at the awards ceremony along with lots of fabulous items as well," said general manager Ramon Cabrera of the Invitational that has Crocs Footwear, Kork Inc. and SMS as donors.

The Masters' and Legends' all-weather championship courses will host about 300 teams (600 participants) in the 36-hole Modified Stableford competition. This format scores 6 points for an ace, 5 for double eagle, 4 for an eagle, 3 for a birdie, 2 for a par and a point for a bogey.

Teams will be classified into four divisions (A, B, C and D) based on the August handicap index of the Southwoods member, according to sports and games committee chair Butch Brodett. .

Lightnings hit Jaguars; EAC prevails

THE ASIAN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND Technology (ACSAT) Lightnings bested the Philippine School of Business Administration Jaguars, 90-81, yesterday at the start of the 5th Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament the San Andres Gym.

Rey Burgos, Arvi Igtos and Allan Recla quickly pushed the Lightnings into the lead, 27-16.

Burgos' drive in the second quarter, followed by Lito Casil's triple with 38 ticks to go before halftime, enabled the Lightnings to pad their lead to 16 points, 43-37.

Coached by basketball great Philip Cezar, the Jaguars, with Mark Lozada scoring 14 points and Angelo Zayas hitting a trey, managed to come back and even forced a 53-all count in the third canto.

But JR Gaco hit two of three free throws with 1:10 remaining in the third canto, handing the Lightning back the upperhand at 64-61.

Triples from Igtos and Wellard Munoz powered the Lightnings, being coached br Ricky Alcantara, to a 74-66 spread with 6:22 to go.

Casil and Igtos scored 12 points, while Burgos and Munoz added 11 each for the Lightnings.

Newly elected UCAA president Raoul Sia of host ACSAT made the ceremonial toss in the company of ACSAT president Gloria Sia and ACSAT Founder and Chairman Constancio Sia.

The games will be aired on a slightly delayed basis by Pro Ads of Henry Tan.

In the second game, defending champion Emilio Aguinaldo College edged St. Francis of Assisi, 74-72.

RP eleven eyes big Asean stint

THE PHILIPPINES GETS A CHANCE to boost its image when it hosts the qualifying round of the Asean Football Championship set Nov. 12-20 at the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod.

Although ranked No. 192 in the world, the Filipinos are expected to perform well against teams from Laos, Cambodia, Brunei and Timor Leste in the single round robin tournament to be hosted by the Negros Occidental Football Association (Nofa) headed by Rep. Charlie Cojuangco.

The top two placers in the event will join defending champion Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Myanmar in the championship round to be held either in Thailand or Singapore in mid-January.

Except for the unranked Timor Leste, the three other entries in the qualifying enjoy higher Fifa ratings over the host country. Brunei is rated No. 178, Laos 182 and Cambodia 183.

But Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez has high hopes for the Filipinos, who have performed fairly well under head coach Aris Caslib.

A reason for optimism was the performance of the Nationals in the Asian Football Confederation's Challenge Cup held in Bangladesh last April. The Filipinos drew 1-1 against Afghanistan (ranked 173 by FIFA), also tie 1-1 with India (No.130) and only lost 1-0 to Chinese-Taipei (No.149).

The Philippines placed third in its group—not enough to advance to the next round, but enough to be out of the bottom—while playing minus major players like James and Phil Younghusband, Chris Greatwich, Anton del Rosario and Dan "The Bull" Padernal.

In the last Tiger Cup in 2004, the Philippines registered its first ever victory since 1996, a 2-1 triumph over Timor Leste.

Although the Filipinos will need more than one victory this time around, the support of football-crazy Negrenses and home field advantage might boost the hosts' confidence no end.

Leyte hosting Carambola open tilt

AN AMBITIOUS FOOTBALL EVENT aiming to discover potential Filipino world football players is set to unfold in October in Leyte.

The tentative title of the event, according to organizer-host Futbol Sociedad de Leyte (FSL), is the First National Carambola Men's Open Football Tournament. It is sanctioned by the Football Federation of the Philippines and the Fifa-World Cup.

Intense action is slated to roll for five straight days with an initial selection of 12 competing teams from different provinces..

The event coincides with the month-long celebration in October of the historical 61st Leyte Landing, where tourists from Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia and United Kingdom usually come in droves to Leyte.

As in previous events, tourists do enjoy watching football games after traversing and watching reenactments of Gen. Douglas McArthur's historic Leyte landing during the Second World War.

Tournament Organizing Committee chair Ops Macayan hopes that the FSL, which has been successfully holding the annual invitational football carambola in the past few years, can maximize participation from teams and incite corporate support.

The FSL, wishing to contribute to the development of the sport, envisions the event to become national in scope in the next few years.

"We really have to take a lot of sacrifices here," said Macayan. "But if we won't take it who will? Football enthusiasts like me do dream of seeing our very first football team slug it out with the best of the best in Asia and into the World Cup. This (1st national Football Carambola) is FSL's first feeble step to goal.

"If our Southeast Asian neighbors like Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia can ably compete in the world football series and in the Olympics, I can't think of any rational reason why can't we," Macayan added.

Lee gets slot in Mercedes World Final

PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS LEE put up a strong showing on the final day of competition despite the chilly condition to eke out a pulsating win in the Asian Regional Final of the Mercedes Trophy Asian Regional held last week in Queensland, Australia.

Lee scored 38 points under the Stableford system at the Glades Golf and Spa to go with the 31 he made at the Hope Island Golf Club and finished with a two-day total 69 that earned him automatic berth in the Mercedes Trophy World Final set in Stuttgart, Germany, on Sept. 22.

"I'm extremely happy with the win," said the 7-handicapper Lee. "It's both an honor and privilege for me to represent RP in the World Final."

Lee joins 8 others from the Asian region. Taiwan, whose best three golfers combined for 233 points, won the nation team award.

"We extend our congratulations to Lee and the whole team for a job well done," said CATS Motors chair Greg Yu and president Felix Ang.

The country's other bets, Emmanuel Te and Freddie Sarabia failed in their bids to join Lee in the World Final.

Espinas emerges NCAA player of the week anew

WHEN GABBY ESPINAS WON both the National Collegiate Athletic Association Most Valuable Player trophy and Rookie of the Year award in 2004, cage pundits took notice.

Recently, the 6-foot-4 Espinas made himself available in the 2006 PBA Rookie Draft set on Aug, 20 at the Market! Market! in Taguig City and with his achievements, he will be highly considered.

During the past week, the high-leaping Espinas played an important role as the 2004 champion Dolphins made it for the third consecutive season to the Final Four of the 82nd NCAA men's basketball tournament, earning his second NCAA Press Corps Player of the Week honors.

PCU scored two victories to book a seat in the crossover semifinal, and they are in strong contention for one of two twice-to-beat incentives.

In the Taft-based team's 79-70 win over host College of St. Benilde, Espinas played only 15 minutes after attending the PBA Rookie Camp in PhilSports early in the day and had a career-low one point.

Espinas bounced back against San Sebastian College as he torched the Stags with 23 point, two rebounds, two assists and two shot blocks as the Dolphins romped to an 81-71 win.

VICTORY DINNER: Members of the RP-Air21 team pose with officials of Federal Tyres during a victory dinner held recently at the Annapolis Seafood Restaurant. The RP-Air21 team, led by coaches Bo Perasol and Johnny Tam, won the 1st Zhongshan Cup held in China last month. Standing (third from left) is Federal Tyres CEO Ronnie Co. From left are Michael Chang, operations manager; Kristine Ko, finance director; coach Tam; Suzzy Hosseinzadeh, communications and marketing executive, and coach Perasol.

Federer scrapes past Belgian foe

TORONTO—TOP SEED ROGER Federer withstood a scrappy Xavier Malisse in a thrilling 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 6-3 quarterfinal victory at the Rogers Cup on Friday.

Federer improved his record in North America to 52 straight wins over more than two years.

On Saturday, he'll face either 15th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile or Jose Acasuso of Argentina for a berth in the final and a chance to win his second Rogers Cup in three years.

British teen Andy Murray and France's Richard Gasquet will meet in the other semifinal.

Federer entered Friday's match with a 6-1 record against Malisse, but they hadn't met in four years and the Belgian quickly updated the Swiss star on why he's reached two hardcourt finals this year.

Federer needed a tiebreaker to separate himself from Malisse in the first set, and served for the match at 5-4 in the second. But Malisse broke back, and rallied from 5-4 down in the second tiebreaker by winning the last three points.

Malisse couldn't hold the momentum, however, and his only lapse on serve in the final set in the fourth game, when Federer claimed the only break point of the set, was enough for Federer to ultimately prevail in 2 hours, 27 minutes.

Murray was better returning serve than holding his own in beating Finland's Jarkko Nieminen, 6-4, 6-7 (0), 6-3.

FEDERER REUTERS

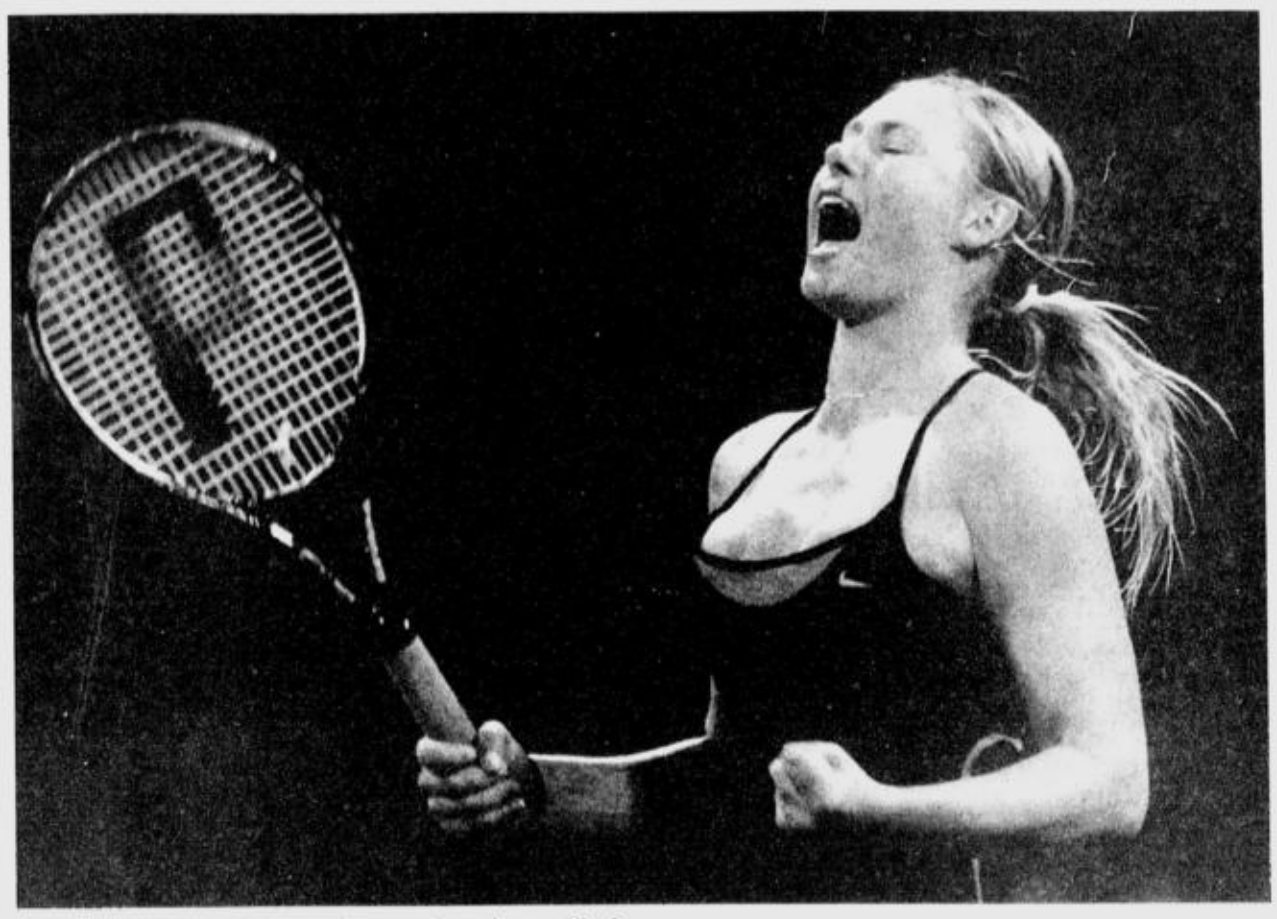
The 19-year-old Scot squandered two chances to serve out for victory at 5-3 in the second set and 5-2 in the third. He finally broke 14th-seeded Nieminen for the eighth time, making a lob to finish their quarterfinal after 2 hours, 28 minutes, about an hour longer than he could have originally ended it.

"I thought I did pretty well to keep it together," Murray said. "I didn't really get frustrated—bar one or two points—which could have been really easy to do after having served for (the match) and then losing a seven-love tiebreaker.

Nieminen gained momentum from Murray's nervous service game to take the second set into a tiebreak, which he swept. Murray, who made only 37 percent of his first serves and double-faulted nine times, then broke the Finn in the deciding set in the first, sixth and final games.

Gasquet took only 66 minutes to defeat 13th-seeded Tomas Berdych, 6-4, 6-1.

Berdych ousted defending champion Rafael Nadal the day before but the Czech couldn't rustle up a single break point against Gasquet. *AP*



MARIA Sharapova celebrates her march to the semifinals. AFP

Stanford keeps 3-shot lead

LONDON, ONTARIO—ANGELA STANford threatened to run away with the title before settling for a 2-under 70 and maintaining a three-stroke lead in the Canadian Women's Open on Friday.

A day after matching the tournament record with an 8-under 64, Stanford birdied her first two holes—Nos. 10 and 11—to reach 10 under and put herself in position to cruise to her second US LPGA Tour title.

"That was a lot of fun. I don't know how it happened," Stanford said. "I thought, 'Wow!' I felt like I was still asleep. I felt like I was still dreaming."

On the par-5 10th, she two-putted from 40 feet after reaching the green in two with a 7-wood. Then on the 11th, she hit a pitching wedge to 3 feet from a fairway bunker.

"Hitting 10 in two. Even my caddie was like, 'I never thought we were going to hit this green in two. No way,'" she said. "And then out of the bunker on 11. It was just kind of happening. I wasn't thinking about it and then I started thinking."

She played the last 16 holes even par.

Cristie Kerr and Jee Young Lee were tied for second after 70s, Canadian star Lorie Kane (70) was another stroke back and Pat Hurst (71) and Vicki Goetze-Ackerman (73) were 4 under on the London Hunt and Country Club course.

Stanford, who followed her 2003 Shoprite Classic victory with a memorable playoff loss to Hilary Lunke in the US Women's Open, missed a short par putt on the par-3 13th for her lone bogey in 36 holes.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales and Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin missed the cut. *AP*

STANFORD REUTERS

Serena serves self a semifinal space

CARSON, CALIFORNIA—SERENA Williams overcame the heat and her second three-set match in 17 hours to beat Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-4, and advance to the JPMorgan Chase Open semifinals on Friday.

Playing her second tournament after a six-month layoff because of a left knee injury, Williams is unseeded and ranked 110th in the world two weeks before the US Open begins.

On Saturday, she will play 16th-seeded Jelena Jankovic, who beat 10th-seeded Ana Ivanovic, 6-4, 7-6 (6), in an all-Serbian quaterfinal.

Maria Sharapova, seeking her second title in as many weeks, defeated fifth-seeded Dinara Safina, 6-2, 6-4.

Sharapova avenged her three-set French Open loss to Safina, breaking her five times in the 1 1/2-hour match.

In Saturday's semifinals, she will take on another Russian countrywoman, third-seeded Elena Dementieva, a 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 winner over American wild card Bethanie Mattek, who sported pink knee-high socks similar to the style she wore in a first-round Wimbledon loss to Venus Williams.

"She's very focused. It's all about her concentration," said Dementieva, who is 1-5 against Sharapova, including losses at Indian Wells and Wimbledon this year. "She plays every ball like it's the last one and she doesn't give you an easy point."

Williams returned for a day match on Friday after putting away seventh-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia. *AP*

GLORY'S LAST SHOT

Time for Tiger, Phil to decide who's king

MEDINAH, ILLINOIS—THE US PGA CHAMpionship is known as "Glory's Last Shot," a reminder to the strongest field of all Grand Slam events that this is the last chance of the year to capture a major championship.

For Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, it takes on a slightly different meaning.

Medinah is where they can make their last statement.

They have been the dominant players on the US PGA Tour this year, reducing any notion of a Big Five to the definitive Big Two.

Mickelson won his second green jacket at the Masters, using two drivers as he dissected Augusta National and won comfortably by two shots. Woods collected his third claret jug at the British Open, his one driver more of a hood ornament than a weapon. He used it only once in 72 holes on the baked links of Royal Liverpool, winning by two shots.

In between, Australian Geoff Ogilvy captured the US Open, although Woods and Mickelson still managed to grab headlines—Woods by missing the cut for the first time in a major, Mickelson by throwing away a chance at his third straight major by making double bogey on the 18th hole at Winged Foot to lose by one.

In some respects, Medinah is for all the marbles.

A victory by either one likely would guarantee the player of the year award. Mark O'Meara showed the value of two majors in 1998 when his Masters and British Open titles trumped David Duval winning four times and the US money title.

WOODS AFP

MICKELSON REUTERS

The award would mean more to Mickelson because he never has won it in his 15 years on the US PGA Tour, and it's been 10 years since he has had a chance as good as this one.

Woods, however, comes to Chicago with more confidence.

After taking two months off when his father died, then missing the cut at the US Open, Woods was nearly flawless at Hoylake in winning his 11th major championship. Two weeks later, he collected his 50th career title on the US PGA Tour with a two-shot victory in the Buick Open, his fourth win this year.

But his work is not done.

"Having two World Golf Championships, the Tour Championship and a major championship ahead of us—four big events—anything can happen," Woods said. "Hopefully, I can get it done in those four events, especially in a couple of weeks."

That was a reference to Medinah, a course that brings back good memories.

Seven years ago, Woods ended his longest drought in the majors with a one-shot victory in the US PGA Championship. That set off an explosive romp that lasted three years, including a stretch when he won 18 of 36 tournaments and went 7-of-11 in majors.

It's too early to tell whether this latest round of swing changes has prepared him for another big run, but considering how his last two starts have gone, Woods is on a high.

"Playing the way I played the last two tournaments is a lot more satisfying than hitting it all over the lot and contending, and if you're lucky enough, to win the tournament," he said. "Playing this way is a lot more fun."

Mickelson's best two years were not good enough to be player of the year.

He won four times in 1996—remember, no majors until 2004—and was leading the money list until British Open champion Tom Lehman won the season-ending Tour Championship to claim the money title, and the vote for player of the year. *AP*

Eyeing the future, new England coach drops ax on Beckham

LONDON—STEVE MCCLAREN IS CONvinced he's taken a step into the future by dropping David Beckham.

Now he has to convince the public that recalling Terry Venables as his assistant isn't a step backward.

The new England coach has made the tough decision to drop Beckham—whose celebrity off the pitch was threatening to overshadow his form on it—and talked of youth and the future on Friday when announcing his first squad since taking over from Sven-Goran Eriksson.

But sitting next to McClaren was a blast from the past.

Venables has been brought in as his assistant 10 years after the former Tottenham manager coached England. While some England fans may applaud McClaren for dropping 31-year-old Beckham, the same people may not be so keen on the return of 63-year-old Venables.

"I do what I feel is best," McClaren said. "Anybody who knows me knows I'm straight down the line, very, very honest, just want things done right professionally, no frills about it, just getting on to winning football matches.

"I wanted to put my own mark on (the job), because I said at the beginning I was going to be my own man and do things my way."

That includes dropping England's most well-known and marketable player, who is also famous for having married Spice Girl Victoria Adams. McClaren said Beckham still might be chosen in the future—adding to his 94 caps—but his tone wasn't hopeful.

"We'll have to see in the future," he said. "He's got pride and he was disappointed but he said he understood and he's going to fight for his place. At Real Madrid, he'll perform the best he can and hope that the door is open enough."

Asked if Beckham was still England's best right-sided midfielder, McClaren paused, then replied: "That's to be proven."

McClaren has worked with Beckham since 1999—first as a deputy to manager Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, then as England assistant coach under Eriksson.

Beckham relinquished the captaincy after England lost to Portugal on penalties in the quarterfinals of the World Cup—and that helped McClaren make his decision. *AP*

BECKHAM: "Spice Boy" loses flavor. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Ballecer tops MCC tilt

TOP SEED DINO BALLECER OF COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE OUTPLAYED erstwhile leader Michael Cariño Thursday in the final round to clinch the title in the MCC Non-master standard chess tourney held at the St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City. Playing white, Ballecer demolished the Sicilian Nadjorf defense of Cariño in 29 moves to clinch his first non-master standard title. Ballecer boosted his final output to 4.5 points with four wins and one bye after five rounds of play. Ballecer will advance to the finals along with Cariño, who took the runner-up honor with 4.0 points in this non-master event organized monthly by the Metropolitan Chess Club. Rounding off the top 10 winners were: Joel Cocjin (3rd); Ferdinand Palermo (4th); Ed Garrovillas (5th); Randy Ramilo (6th); Rodolfo Mendoza (7th); Rodolfo Pates (8th); Cecil Cuevas (9th) and Raul Cariño (10th). The finals is set to start on Dec. 5. The overall champion will get a free ticket to any Asian country courtesy of Skylight Tours and Travel.

Valbuena Cup at Metropolis Mall

THE 1ST VICTOR U. VALBUENA CUP TABLE TENNIS MALL TOUR GETS UNDER way on Aug. 26 at the Metropolis Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Richard Gonzalez, silver medalist in the men's singles of last year's Southeast Asian Games, and former national champion Ernesto Ebuen will lead crack players who will showcase their talent in public. Las Piñas Rep. Cynthia Villar is supporting the event co-organized by the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) and Starmall Marketing manager Aby Platero and managed by Tatap deputy secretary general Robbie Pangilinan. The event, supported by Café Lupe, Vision for Life International and Digital Minds Vision Production, will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will also visit Starmall-Las Piñas in September and Starmall-Shaw in October.

Fistorama airs two bouts

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON TWO EXCITING SUPER FEATHERweight bouts. Eden Sarcu faces Ryan Monayao in the four-round curtain raiser. Mike Tumbaga battles Rodney Alba in a six-round event. Fistorama is shown worldwide twice weekly through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. Fistorama, supported by PCSO, Tanduay, Hope, Outlast Battery and Mapecon, will be aired starting at 3:30 p.m., Sunday on RPN-9. The longest running local TV sports program, "Golf Power Plus" supported by PCSO, Hope, Tanduay, Outlast Battery and Mapecon airs at 3 p.m. featuring the elimination match between Olivarez College and World Citi College team 3 in the PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge.

Stag derbies at Roligon

THE NUMBER OF ENTRIES CONTINUE TO GROW IN ROLIGON MEGA COCKpit's "Ray Showdown 6–stag derby," slated on Sept. 2, 5 and 7 with the full backing of Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Sixty-two gamefarms were already covered by the screening committee headed by Buddy Puertas and Juancho Aguirre as of yesterday. Other cockers and breeders may contact 851-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 or 0917–8277484 for appointment on farm-to-farm screening. Another blockbuster stagfest dubbed as "Banahaw 5-Stag Derby" takes off on Aug. 22, with Eddie Sioson acting as screener and host. Sioson said that stags, eight to 10 months old, will be bracketed into three categories: young, regular and maximum.

Backyard breeders' day

BACKYARD BREEDERS AND HACKFIGHT ENTHUSIASTS PLUNGE INTO action at the Pasay City Cockpit on Aug. 25 via the "Smalltime 3-stag derby," which has an entry fee of only P2,200. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Guaranteed prize is P30,000. For screening, interested parties may call 843-1890, 816-6750 and 0920-4373730. Cockers from Quezon City, Kalookan and Bulacan may also inquire at Sta. Monica Cockpit in Novaliches (418-9328 and 431-7703). Meanwhile, the PCC 2-cock *'ulutan'* starts at 8 a.m. today, Sunday, Aug. 13. Each champion will get P6,000 for an entry fee of P1,100.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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'Dream Team' getting used to int'l game

SEOUL—UNITED STATES coach Mike Krzyzewski sees signs that his team is adjusting to international play as it prepares for the 2006 FIBA World Championships.

KRZYZEWSKI AP

The US team arrived Friday in Seoul, where it will play two tuneup matches against Lithuania and South Korea before heading to Sapporo, Japan, for its first game of the world championships on Aug. 19.

Krzyzewski's team defeated Brazil, 90-86, in China on Tuesday and the Duke University coach said that game proved his team is adjusting to a different style of play.

"The games in China allowed us to get accustomed to international play," Krzyzewski said Saturday. "It's a different game. We had some adversity with foul trouble and injury against Brazil but the players responded well down the stretch and we were able to win."

Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James knows the pressure will be on the Americans to win in Japan. The US finished sixth in 2002 and third in 1998. The last time the United States won the tournament was in 1994.

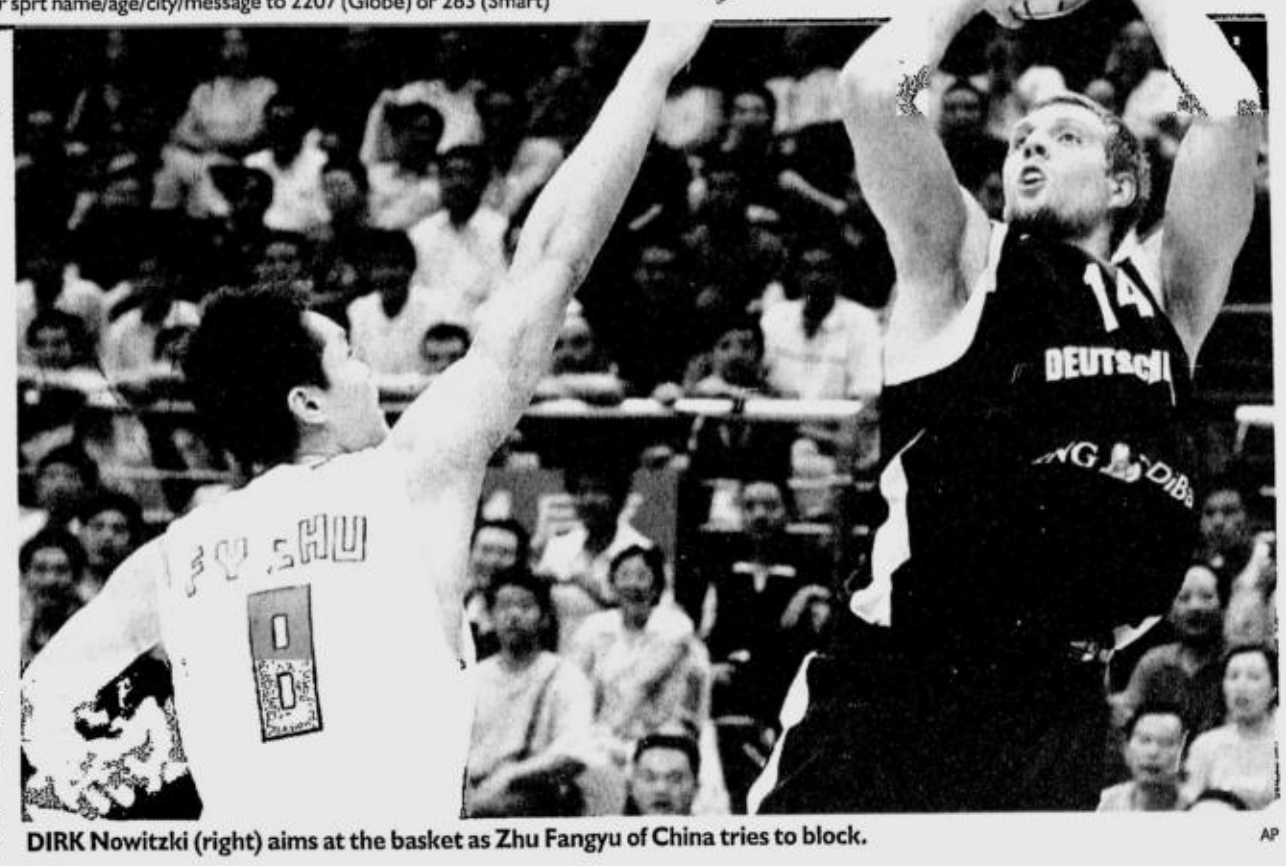
"There will be a lot of pressure," said James. "But with myself, Carmelo Anthony and Dwayne Wade leading the team, we feel we can control the pressure. If we don't win the whole thing it will be disappointing for us but if we go out and play our game we feel we can win it all."

Previous US world championship squads, normally dubbed the "Dream Team," have been criticized for not playing as a team but Krzyzewski doesn't see that as a problem this time.

"Our go-to guy is our team," said Krzyzewski. "All of our players can step up. The go-to guy is not just someone who makes the shot but someone who makes the play and all of our guys can make the play."

Anthony, who leads the US in scoring in pre-tournament games, hyperextended his knee in the Brazil game but was back practicing with the team before its arrival in South Korea and will suit up against Lithuania on Sunday.

Anthony, James and Wade all played for the US team that won the bronze medal in Athens in 2004 and Anthony said this team is better. *AP*


DIRK Nowitzki (right) aims at the basket as Zhu Fangyu of China tries to block. AP

Serbia and Montenegro rips Argentina; Spain triumphs

GINOBILI AP

SINGAPORE—WORLD CHAMPION SERBIA and Montenegro easily defeated Argentina 83-64 on the first day of the Singapore Cup on Friday.

Serbia and Montenegro took an early lead over the 2004 Olympic champion, who were led by San Antonio Spurs player Manu Ginobili.

Argentina, seen as a favorite to win the world championships, were let down by their woeful shooting, converting only 20 out of 66 shots attempted from the two-point range and seven out of 23 from three-point attempts.

"Often we miss so much. It's the worst problem a team can have if you do not score," Argentina's coach Sergio Hernandez said after the match.

"We know we can play better than tonight," he said.

"I have to say our team is not favorite for the world championships," said Dragan Sakota, the coach of Serbia and Montenegro.

He said he expected a tougher match when the two sides meet in Japan, saying the South Americans are a different side when it comes to international tournaments.

"Everybody knows, we know that Argentina will be a complete different side," said Sakota.

Fifth-ranked Spain beat Slovenia, 96-85.

The four countries are using this event as a warm-up for the world championships. *AP, AFP*

Nowitzki tows Germany past Yao's China

NANJING, CHINA—YAO MING'S BACK. TOO bad Dirk Nowitzki had to spoil the party.

Yao returned to competition on Wednesday after four months of recovery from a foot injury, as China went down 82-73 to an unstoppable Nowitzki and the German national team at a world championships warmup.

Nowitzki racked up a game-high 27 points, including 18 in the final quarter, scoring seemingly at will against Yao and almost every other Chinese player.

"That was vintage Dirk Nowitzki," Germany's coach Dirk Bauermann said after the game.

"If you have a player like that on your team, then obviously that's a great, great advantage," Bauermann said.

Patrick Femerling added 10 more points for the European championship runners-up and Mithat Demirel contributed nine. Yao had 11 points, while Zhu Fangyu led China with 14.

Nowitzki, who also had a game-high 12 rebounds, started the night looking a little rusty and needed some time to find his rhythm.

Yao, meanwhile, fired up early, winning a huge cheer from the home crowd with a mighty slam at the start of the first quarter. China was ahead 7-5 when Yao was benched with 4:38 left in the quarter and China hung on to end the quarter with a 16-15 lead.

Germany grabbed the lead for the first time one minute into the second quarter and never let go. An eight-point unanswered run helped give Germany a bigger cushion, although a massive dunk by Yi Jianlian late in the quarter kept things close at 33-28.

Yi, also considered an NBA prospect, had seven points and 10 rebounds.

With Nowitzki finally hitting his stride, Germany ended the third quarter ahead 49-58. China tried to keep things close in the fourth, but the Dallas Mavericks star—who gave Yao of the Houston Rockets a playful slap on the chest at the start—was supreme.

"He's so good in one-on-one situations, he can always get a shot off," Bauermann said.

Still, with Yao on board, China looked like a completely different team from the one that got slammed, 119-73, by the US on Monday. *AP*

LEBRON James warms uo while waiting for a practice session. REUTERS

Gatlin's only hope of avoiding ban: Rat on track coach

LONDON—JUSTIN GATLIN COULD escape a lifetime ban if he testifies against his coach, the United States Anti-Doping Agency said Friday.

The 24-year-old American sprinter is facing the ban after a second positive doping test, but that could be reduced to eight years if Gatlin provides information in USADA's case against Trevor Graham.

"Since we don't have any criminal investigative powers—like wiretaps, warrants for searching premises, etc.—it takes information coming to us from people aiming for a reduction in their own doping sentences," USADA general counsel Travis Tygart.

"It's one way we can continue to actively pursue those involved in doping practices."

Gatlin, the Olympic and world champion and co-world record holder in the 100 meters, tested positive for testosterone or other steroids after a race in Kansas in April.

By testifying against Graham, Gatlin would exercise the "substantial assistance" provision in the World Anti-Doping Agency's code, which reduces the ban by proving "he or she bears no significant fault or negligence" in the violation.

"If an athlete can provide information on individuals involved in doping conspiracies and can help us catch distributors or users of these drugs we would always welcome that evidence," Tygart said.

The International Association of Athletics Federations said Thursday it would investigate the activities of Graham in conjunction with USADA.

GATLIN: Substantial assistance

Graham, who once trained five-time Olympic medalist Marion Jones, has been involved with at least a half-dozen athletes who have received drug suspensions.

Graham has always denied direct knowledge or involvement with drug use and claimed that Gatlin was the victim of a massage therapist who rubbed testosterone cream on the sprinter's legs.

Sprinter Kelli White received a two-year suspension after testing positive for modafinil at the 2003 world championships in Paris. She cooperated with USADA and helped indict four men on federal charges in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative case—including founder Victor Conte and her former coach Remi Korchemny. *AP*

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Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

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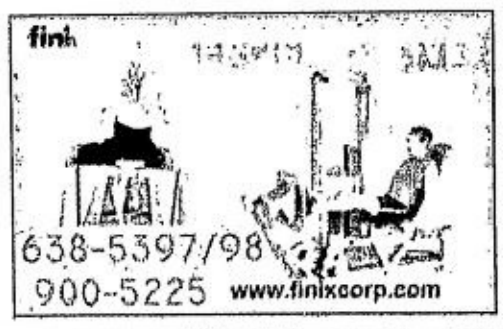


New interest in Ilocandia's black gold

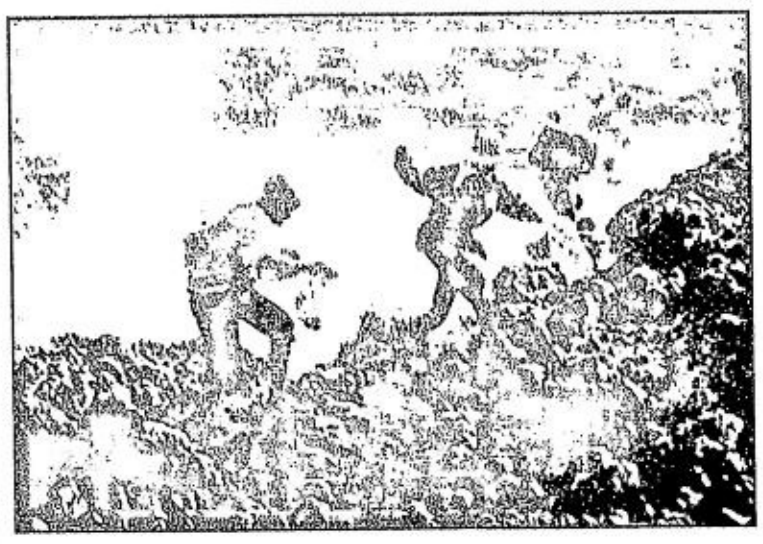
Local gamet is like the nori

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BURGOS, ILOCOS Norte—When the Burgos tourism council started hyping about the town's rare and expensive gamet (black seaweed) last year, it merely wanted to mirror the unique sea bounty as another means to draw tourist attention.

Little did the council realize that the First Gamet Festival would bring renewed interest in the town's treasured seaweed and a much-deserved income opportunity for its seasonal gatherers who literally invest their life in the trade.

The equivalent of Japanese nori (the world's most popular seaweed, according to a Japanese website), gamet comes as a black and flat seaweed sheet when dried.



GATHERERS while being smashed by waves

The Japanese consider nori as the mildest of all Japanese seaweeds and is a good starter for people new to sea vegetables.

But authorities have advised buyers against cheap Chinese nori that has been introduced into the world market.

This nori is said to be primarily grown in heavily industrialized areas of China and in some of the most polluted waters in the world.

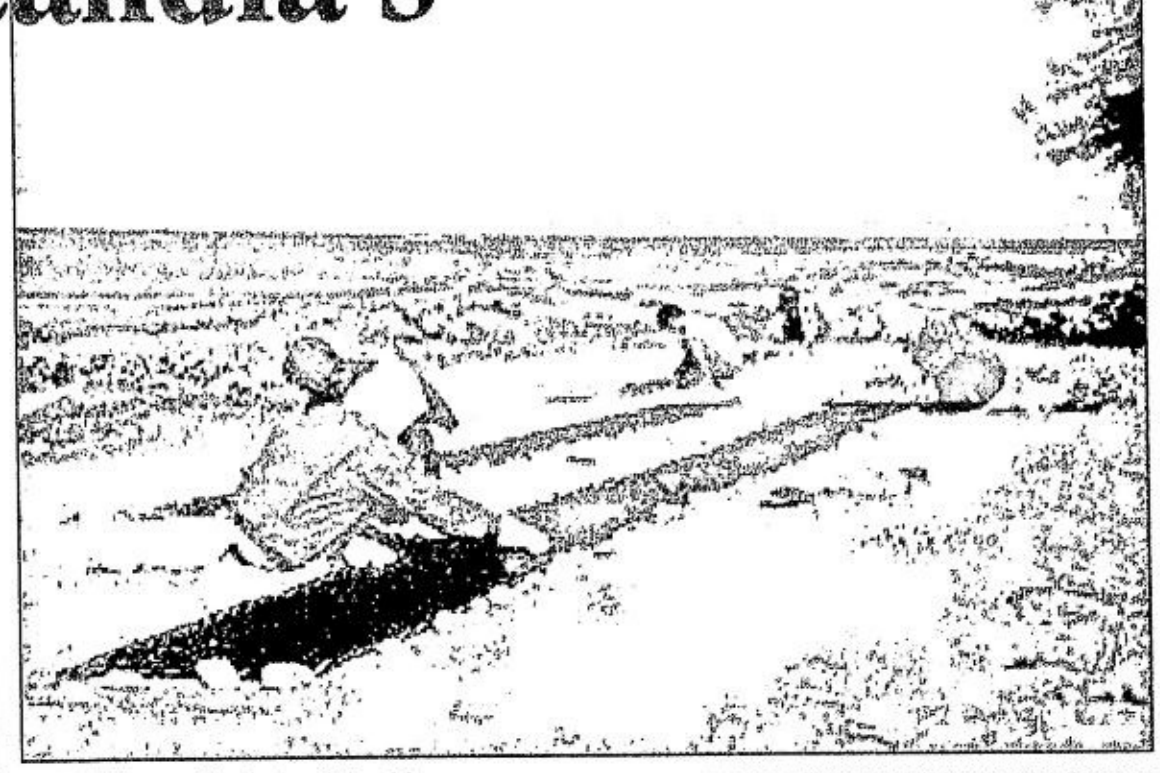
Versatile and ready to eat, the gamet is a must for sushi, norimaki (sushi rolls), and onigiri (rice balls). Crumbled or cut into strips, it is an attractive garnish for grains, noodles and soup. One can pass the gamet over a gas or electric burner until it becomes crisp and fragrant.

Marine aquarists, on the other hand, discovered the nutritional value of gamet—high in carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, and especially minerals—that they began using it to feed their saltwater fish.

The gamet is rich in nutrients, including calcium, iron, vitamin B12 and vitamins A and C.

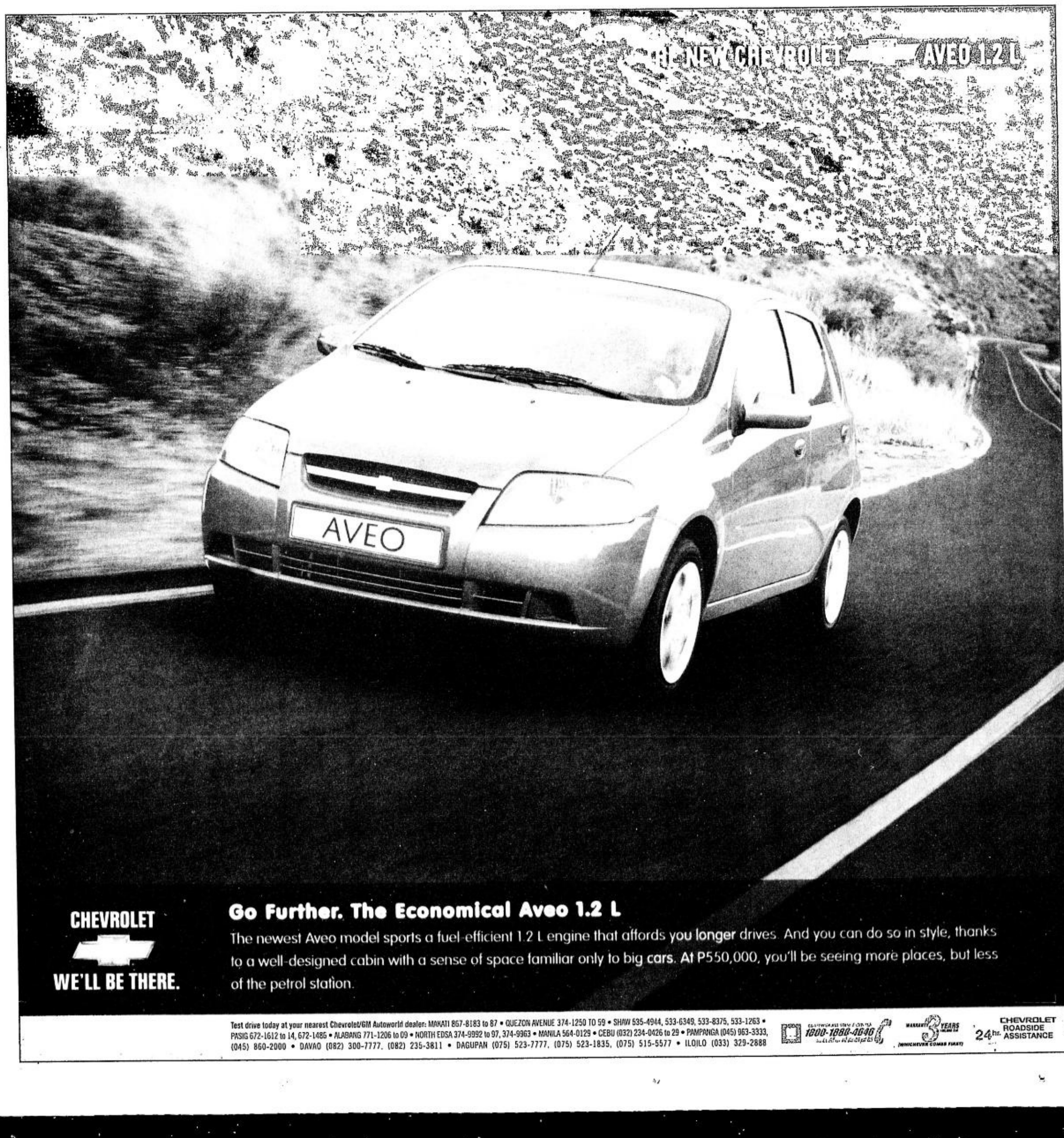
Joegie Jimenez, Burgos tourism council chair, says gamet gathering is confined to the skilled ones because of the risk in-

NEW INTEREST/ B2



GAMET is sun-dried before it is sold.

PHOTOS BY CRISTINA ARZADON/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



More than just a seller of books

From a pre-war bookstore, Goodwill now into taking care of kids

By Marissa Beltran-Ancheta
Contributor

TERESA CANCIO-Suplico or Tess, as she is more often called, president of Goodwill Bookstore, remembers very well how she was introduced into the family business.

"I was 9 years old when my Dad got me my first typewriter. It was a Brother typewriter, supposedly portable but as big as an ordinary manual one although it was more flat. My first lessons in business had to do with learning how to type. The portable typewriter came in a case and I lugged it around between home and school when I had to type out projects.

"During summer breaks, my sister and my cousins were required to help out in our Rizal Avenue store. I learned to man the bulky register-*wala pang* POS *noon*- and how to compute the change for the customer."

Since then every summer she was tasked to learn the ropes of their business. The busiest time of the year was selling hardbound books to medical students. She and the bookstore staff were cramped into a small area while receiving orders. It was there that Tess learned how to cover books impeccably with plastic. It is a skill she possesses up to now and which she has taught to her two children, Joanna and Tommy.

Goodwill Bookstore was founded in 1938 by her parents Manuel Cancio and Juana Tan. Though they did not go to college, both loved to read. The couple met in a hardware store where he was a clerk and she was the cashier. They started their business in a small store located at the foot of Escolta bridge selling second hand hardbound books, magazines and even sweepstakes tickets.

They were able to establish a more permanent store on Rizal Avenue but it got burned down during World War II. They rebuilt the business plodding on, working long hours and eventually teaching their children on the job about discipline, patience, perseverance and flexibility.

Goodwill Bookstore has grown into a nine-branch operation with its flagship store located at Glorietta 3, Ayala Center in Makati City. Aside from its retailing and wholesaling ventures, Goodwill Bookstore is also involved in the publishing and distribution of both local and foreign-authored titles. In collaboration with Edca Publishing and Distributing Corp. and Kath Publishing Co., it has penetrated the international market by exporting locally authored books and trade books.

TESS SUPLICO

But Goodwill Bookstore is more than just a bookstore. Tess always encourages her employees to think out of the box. In 2000, she herself embraced this business philosophy by becoming a business partner of Star Kids Daycare International. Though Goodwill had a daycare center established in 1994, she felt it lacked the structure that the business needed. With her partnership with Star Kids Daycare International, a concept was provided together with a training program, and administration, financial and marketing support.

The daycare is located at the basement of Goodwill Bookstore, Glorietta. It offers services which include storytelling, games, art workshops, taekwondo, ballet, flamenco and tutorials. Chie Balboa, assistant director of the daycare, says that more than 100 children stay in the Star Kids Daycare on a weekend between 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. They have had children as young as two weeks old and as old as 12 years.

Star Kids Daycare charges P100 per hour per child on a weekday and an additional P10 per hour on weekends and holidays. The center also has a separate charge for the *yayas*. A section of the daycare is offered as a venue for children's birthday parties.

During weekdays, some couples who work in the Makati area also leave their children in the daycare, especially if there is no househelp available to take care of them.

Through the years, it was not unusual for Chie and her staff to take care of brothers and sisters at the same time.

According to Suplico, the Star Kids Daycare in Glorietta has been so successful that she has decided to establish another daycare center at the Vmall in the Ortigas Shopping Center this August. The Star Kids Daycare Vmall will be part of their new bookstore concept, Bridges Bookstore, which will focus on activities and learning materials for children of all ages, "tweens" (pre-adolescents), teens and young adults. The Star Kids Daycare in this branch will offer the same services as those offered in Glorietta.

As if Star Kids were not enough, Tess also went into partnership with Eduworld recently to establish a branch of Sacred Heart School (SHS), a pre-school founded in 1967 by Rosario Tambunting-Juan, at the third floor of Goodwill Building on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati. Together with her niece Rianne Collantes, she opened the school last June to children ages 1.5 to 6 years old.

A bookstore. A daycare. A pre-school. Those are her business projects among others. But her personal passion is the flamenco. She takes two-hour lessons twice a week with Marissa Aboitiz, one of the country's leading dance teachers and choreographers for jazz and flamenco. For this 48-year-old lady, dancing the flamenco does not only mean focusing on the correct techniques. She has found her center in this ancient Spanish dance, reveling in its beauty and in the spiritual dimension she has attached to it over 11 years of learning the dance. Her love for it is so great that she once attended class after checking out from the hospital where she was confined for a few days.

She has always advised her children to harness their talents to full potential, and not to limit their learning only by reading books, but by being aware and appreciative of their environment. She tells them they must find their voice on any issue confronting them whether it concerns local or even world news, dance which 13-year-old Joanna loves, orchids and plants which are Tom's interest or even wrestling which both children love.

"Now, that's one for the books!" exclaims the mother as she throws her hands up when her children debate on recent world wrestling matches on who's the stronger wrestler.

What Teresa Cancio-Suplico knows for sure is that love for life may start with books but should not necessarily end there.

New interest in Ilocandia's black gold

From page B1

volved in harvesting the seaweeds.

The black seaweeds grow mostly on islets of rocks and deep crevices of corals along the coastal villages of Saoit, Nagsurot and Pagali.

When the seaweeds are fresh, their texture is even, combined with a translucent sea green color.

"Gatherers stake their lives each time they brave the perils of the sea waves. This is why the price of gamet is high," Jimenez says, noting that the seaweed is sold for as much as P600 for a regular-sized sheet.

The gamet harvest is usually traded to *balikbayans* who take with them long mats of gamet abroad and give them as presents.

Gamet surfaces in patches along Burgos' cliffs periodically from September to February, also a period when the Burgos Bay is rough and the waves are swelling.

The splash of waves combined with cool rain showers are said to be favorable to its growth and quality.

Gatherers would wait for the waves to retreat before they start picking the seaweeds stuck deep in the fissures of rocks and corals.

The seaweeds are collected as soon as they start growing in fragments along rocks. But the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources has been discouraging the practice, saying the newly developed gamet must be allowed to grow fully and, in the process, increase the volume to be gathered.

GATHERERS wash their gathered gamet in one sea channel.

Gamet commands a higher price at the onset of the gamet season when the seaweeds are scarce and the first harvest is said to be of the best quality.

The BFAR has recommended that a fish sanctuary, where gamet-gathering will be prohibited, be declared in Burgos to prevent abuse of the seaweed.

But while gamet is not peculiar to Burgos (it also grows along the shorelines of neighboring Cagayan), its scent is said to be distinct from seaweeds produced in other areas. Gamet is known to grow abundantly in seawaters that are clean and unpolluted.

"The Burgos scent of gamet has become famous that even gatherers from Cagayan would take their seaweeds to our town and wash them off with our seawater before trading them in the market," Jimenez says.

The tourism council has initiated a program to package gamet for national and foreign markets and encourage gatherers to sell the seaweed locally by the weight instead of the traditional dangan system where a mat is measured from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the forefinger.

The Department of Science and Technology was asked to develop a technology that would allow the drying of gamet using an oven during the rainy period.

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Aroma candle-making training

THE GOLDEN TREASURE SKILLS AND DEvelopment Program will conduct a one-day seminar on aroma candle-making, at the Vermont Blooms Unlimited at 9 Rd. Proj. 3, Quezon City on Aug. 19, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Among the topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing and how to start and maintain a business. Participants will get to experience how to make candles using different methods and techniques such as the dipping method, pouring, mold making, casting, hand forming and carving. They will also be taught how to make traditional candlestick, twisted candle, gel candle using pellets-type paraffin wax, candles in glass containers and many more.

Participants will receive certificates of training right after the seminar. Lunch and snacks will be served and the materials will be provided. *For questions please call 952-40-28; 436-78-26;952-29-34; 913-65-51 and 951-29-66.*

Beacon of Marketing Excellence

IN TODAY'S INTENSELY COMPETITIVE ENvironment, the challenge for marketers to survive and compete effectively is to be highly creative and innovative. The Agora Awards, organized by the Philippine Marketing Association over the past 27 years, has established an exceedingly stringent benchmark for the marketing profession.

The Philippine Marketing Association, the premier organization for marketing professionals, established the Agora Awards as a flagship project that will help make marketing practice more professional.

A non-profit award-giving body, Agora Awards is now widely regarded as the beacon of Philippine marketing excellence. This premier award has showcased outstanding innovativeness and ingenuity in marketing strategies, recognizing accomplishments that will be appreciated even beyond our shores. Because there is no fee for nominations or to receive the award, the honor granted to Agora awardees is undoubtedly and unquestionably prestigious.

Agora winners are widely acknowledged as "cream of the crop," respected for solid achievements in the most competitive business categories.

Benguet university pushes mushroom production

Students are trained as growers and via micro financing

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Judging from the experience of Dr. Janet Luis of Benguet State University here, oyster mushrooms are as good a cash crop as strawberries.

"It's a good business and requires minimum capital and labor," Luis says. "And Benguet is the best environment to raise mushrooms because of its temperate [climate]."

"Growing them also makes a pitch for organic farming since mushrooms need no fertilizer or other chemicals," she added.

Luis, 49, knows mushrooms like the back of her hand.

She had taught plant pathology for years at BSU and dealt with mushrooms in her laboratory.

Since 1991, she and her husband, Ben, 50, also a BSU professor in animal science, have made raising oyster mushrooms a family business.

Half of their 370-sq.m. property at Pines Park here was converted into a mushroom growing area.

Recently, they acquired a 1,000-sq.m. lot at Barangay Puguis where they built two houses for more than 7,000 bags of mushrooms.

"We started with a monthly income of P6,000," Luis says.

She, however, refuses to divulge her family earnings today but the indicators of a successful business abound.

During harvest time, her boys deliver 20-50 kilos a day of fresh oyster mushrooms to the vegetable trading post here. They sell the mushrooms at P100 a kilo.

The buyers include retailers and wholesalers who supply the orders of restaurants in Baguio City and Manila.

She says that while the cost of production was reasonable, an interested grower needed to know the secrets particularly in the growing stage because mushrooms are very sensitive.

"The growing bags of mushrooms need to be moved from time to time. They should be talked to like humans and sometimes, they grow very well when music is played," she says.

An interested grower can buy the growing bags at P35 each from the BSU mushroom area, she says.

Stored under proper moisture and light, the growing bags can produce mushrooms in just two to three weeks.

It's the making of the growing bags that is the most difficult part of the process.

First, sawdust is bought from lumber yards at P7 a sack. This is mixed with pulverized rice bran, which acts as the fertilizer.

The mixture is placed in plastic bags, sterilized by "cooking" these in a huge iron pot.

After the bags are sanitized, mushroom tissues are placed in the bags, through a process called spawning, in a sealed laboratory.

After incubation, the bags are stored in a cool and damp growing area.

The entire process takes two to three months, but once the mushrooms sprout, harvest is guaranteed after seven to eight weeks, Luis says.

Luis dreams of selling her produce to high end consumers and institutional buyers who yearn for processed mushroom products like instant mushroom soup, sauce, tea and vegetable mixes in sachets.

Her efforts to build the BSU mushroom center have paid off.

She recently received a P1.1 million grant from the Philippine Australian Community Assistance Program to establish a mushroom growing enterprise for BSU students who come from poor families.

The students will be trained as mushroom growers and entrepreneurs at the same time through a micro financing scheme with BSU. The BSU will provide soft loans and technical assistance.

Through the BSU multi-purpose cooperative, their products will be sold in big malls in Metro Manila.

Luis, the project director, says the project aims to acquire a processing machine to convert fresh mushrooms into dried products.

The students are expected to produce 30,000 kilos of fresh mushrooms in a year, use the income to settle their loans and later produce their own growing bags and growing houses.

Luis, who conceptualized the project, says the projections were ambitious but achievable because the market for fresh and processed mushrooms is just waiting to be tapped.

AFTER THE BAGS are sanitized, mushroom tissues are placed in the bags, through a process called spawning.

PHOTOS BY DELMAR CARINO

DR. JANET LUIS has a passion for mushrooms and has turned it into a thriving business in Benguet.

GROWING BAGS. Dr. Luis shows off vats of growing bags where oyster mushrooms are nurtured.

Load offers gold mine for entrepreneurs

ENTREPRENEURS BENEFIT FROM THE UP-surge of myriad opportunities in telecom that have come their way. One opportunity for enterprising men and women is Sun Cellular's Xpress Load, a one-stop-electronic-reload-shop which offers a very user-friendly solution to reloading Sun Cellular prepaid subscribers with whatever type of Sun prepaid load they want—"Over-the-Air."

Sun Xpress Load's e-load service offers telecom retailers ease, availability, convenience and business growth. Now, Sun Xpress Load allows them to load whatever their customer needs directly into his prepaid account—from regular load denominations to their choice of unlimited services or even special Sun loads such as Sun IDD Top10, Convert-a-Load, Sulit Calls and iMessenger subscriptions.

With Sun Cellular's latest investment to aggressively expand its network capacity, retailers can expect more subscribers to switch to Sun. The company is expecting to double the number of users in Metro Manila, Visayas, Mindanao and Northern and Southern Luzon. It is currently undergoing major incursions of key provinces all over the country, translating into a vast market for Sun Xpress Load shops.

Existing and prospective reloading partners in this selling scheme can rest assured of growing their business with the network's yearly investment that is expected to result in more cell sites, wider coverage and increased capacity. With this dedication to grow bigger and better, Sun Xpress Load retailers can expect fast return on their investment.

The new Sun Xpress Load provides retailers the business opportunity to sell to Sun prepaid subscribers a wide array of value-for-money options to suit their lifestyle and budget. Available through Sun Xpress Load are regular loads from P20-P150; 24/7 call and text unlimited (seven days for P150 and 30 days for P450); 24/7 text unlimited (two days for P20, seven Days for P50 and 30 days for P150 denominations); daylite call & text unlimited (seven days for P100); special loads like sulit calls (P30 for one hour); convert-a-load (33 inter network texts for P25 and 70 inter network texts for P50); Sun IDD Top 10 (P100 for seven Days) and I-Messenger (P20 for one day subscription, P100 for one week subscription and P300 for 30 days subscription).

Those who want to be a part of Sun Cellular's Sun Xpress Load family may call 397-8136 or the Sun Cellular hotline at 200 using your Sun phone or 395-8000.

Livelihood project thrives on easing grief

IT SEEMS IRONIC THAT A livelihood project would thrive on one of only two certainties in life: death. Yet, a small band of people in a highly populated, poor village in Quezon Province has found a way to stay the hand of poverty while helping their neighbors lessen the grief of losing a loved one.

Dubbed as "Ala-Ala Muli," the livelihood project provides residents of Barangay Gulang-gulang in Lucena City with decent, affordable and quality caskets for their dearly departed.

A brainchild of village chief Anselmo A. Regis Jr., "Ala-Ala Muli" took off in February last year with a seed capital of P100,000 from Ginebra San Miguel Inc. and San Miguel Foundation and counterpart funding from the Sangguniang Barangay ng Gulang-gulang.

"Casket-making and a funeral home may sound morbid, but the business offers opportunities. The barangay is often where the poor run to for funeral services," Regis said.

Statistics show that about 0.03 to 0.05 percent of Gulang-gulang's population, or about 75 to 125 persons, die each year.

Gulang-gulang is one of Quezon Province's urbanized areas, with a population of 25,066. Poverty, however, afflicts most households and unemployment has been a pressing concern.

Most of the people living in Gulang-gulang are regular wage earners who cannot afford coffins that normally costs between P60,000 and P120,000 each.

"Ala-Ala Muli" has been able to cut the cost of a casket down to P1,800 to P5,500 without emaciating the dignity of those who had passed on.

The project's capital requirement runs up to P244,000. Nearly half of the amount—some P100,000—came from San Miguel Foundation's "Hanapbuhay, Habang-buhay" program, a microfinancing initiative that helps communities hosting San Miguel's facilities pursue sustainable livelihood projects.

"Hanapbuhay, Habang-buhay adheres to that proverb: 'Give a man a fish, and you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish, and you have fed him for a lifetime'," Camille Buenaventura, project head, said.

"We in San Miguel believe there is so much more value in providing livelihood than dole-outs to our host communities. Livelihood projects are sustainable and the effects are long-term," Buenaventura said.

"Ala-Ala Muli" has provided jobs to 10 people since it began in February last year.

Quickly recovering from early lumber supply problems arising from the government's ban on logging, the business sold 40 coffins in four months, chalking up over P112,400 in earnings.

It has also managed to stay within its repayment schedule, keeping it at a high 96 percent.

Because of its success, the project has been recognized as the "outstanding livelihood project" by the Department of the Interior and Local Government Region 4.

How some goods sold in 'sari-sari' stores are made

THERE ARE A LOT OF GOODS AND products sold at a *sari-sari* store. It may be a small enterprise but combining the more than half a million there are all over the country, these sari-sari stores serve as a "backbone" of the economy since it serves as a catalyst for entrepreneurship at a barangay or town level.

The products sold at a sari-sari store vary from necessities such as toiletries and cooking ingredients to cell phone cards.

A staple of sari-sari stores since the post-American era are various types of snacks and candies. These may be peanuts with different flavors, or chocolates that come in various shapes and sizes.

And for a majority of Pinoys, their favorite is the choco peanut candy which has been dubbed as one of the best comfort food.

This "humble" candy brings a sense of pride and ownership since it is "invented" in the country. Much like *dinuguan*, *halo-halo*, and *halayang ube*, peanut chocolates cannot be found anywhere else in the world. It is the Pinoy chocolate candy.

When prices are going up, the makers of Choco Mani decided to lower their price in order to help sari-sari owners make a decent profit margin.

This was made possible by the modern technology and machines used to produce Choco Mani. In simple economics, "the increase in the supply of the product enabled the price to be competitively low."

"The reception of the sari-sari owners was very encouraging for Choco Mani," said Richard Chua, president of Candyline Food Manufacturing Corp., manufacturer of Choco Mani.

"They realized that we are also helping them earn more that's why they are more enthusiastic in pushing the brand to their *suki*," added Richard.

Six years ago, when Choco Mani was first conceptualized, Richard knew they could not find a machine to manufacture the product. So they hired several experts to customize a machine that they can use to produce Choco Mani.

"New packaging materials were sourced out to make sure that the product gets enough attention and at the same time have ample protection. Production methods were carefully analyzed, modified and standardized to make them conform to today's more stringent requirements," Richard revealed.

Each piece of Choco Mani is machine-packed in foil and then in semi-permeable plastic. Machine packing in itself adds to the quality of the product by decreasing the human handling and thus decreasing the chances for contamination. Choco Mani coins are even pillow-packed. This allows for a more hygienic product.

Choco Mani comes in coins or bars. For inquiries on distribution or delivery, call 364-6507/ 360-4115, or e-mail MDC_mktg@hotmail.com.

THE MAKERS lowered their price to help sari-sari owners make a profit margin.

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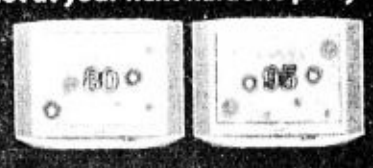

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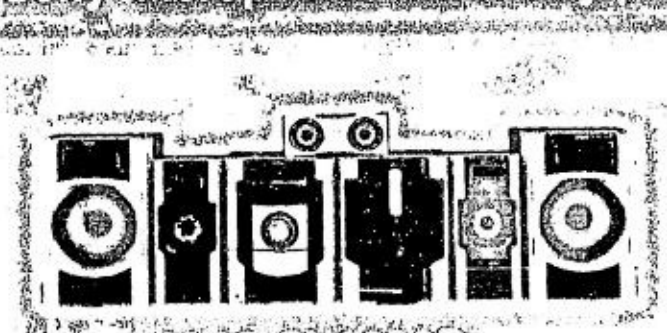

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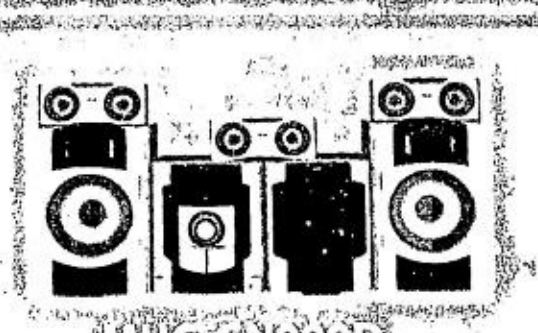

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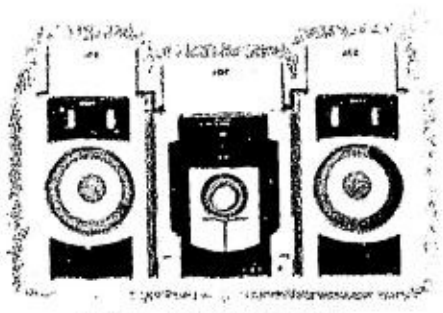

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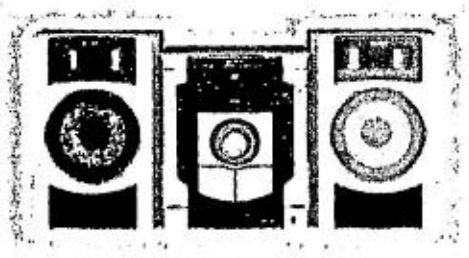

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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C1

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Lifestyle goes to Bataan**
/Sections C and D

The rise of Bataan

By Linda B. Bolido

THE BACKDROP FOR MANY real scenes of uncommon valor and acts of selfless heroism: This is what most Filipinos know of Bataan.

Located west of Manila, the province is the center of the annual April 9 national holiday celebrating Filipino heroes and their unparalleled bravery in World War II.

Markers everywhere speak of the important role Bataan played in the struggle to defend the Philippines from foreign invaders. Even an ancient *sampalok* tree proudly bears a plaque proclaiming it as a living witness to the infamous Death March.

But how many people actually know of Bataan as more than just the site of the Filipinos' and Americans' last stand against the invading Japanese forces? Very few Filipinos probably realize that there is more to Bataan than its role in World War II.

Pre- and post-war history

Centuries-old churches, some of them sporting more modern designs as a result of rehabilitation work, are monuments of a more distant past. Images of Buddhist deities and miniature copies of well-known landmarks in the Indo-Chinese region in Morong comprise a memorabilia of the period 1980-1994, when the province hosted refugees of the Vietnam War.

Known as the Philippine Refugee Processing Center (PRPC), the area is now being gradually transformed into the Bataan Technology Park, the hub of the Morong Special Economic Zone.

It is envisioned to be a center for agriculture and aquaculture technology. With the Subic Special Economic and Freeport Zone and Clark Special Economic Zone, it is expected to boost the development of Central Luzon.

Bataan, though unabashedly proud of its permanent place in the nation's history, is not allowing itself to be caught in a time warp. It is determined to project a more contemporary and multidimensional image while taking steps to anticipate future trends and development.

As a tourist destination, it hopes to be recognized as a place not just for history buffs and patriotic Filipinos but also for practically everyone—the intrepid outdoor adventurer, eager to explore the jungle and the deep sea; food trippers and culture vultures; and even entrepreneurs seeking new business opportunities.

With a seemingly strong commitment to conservation, even eco-tourists may want to include the province in their itineraries.

The coastal areas of the peninsular province that rolls down to the China Sea are breeding grounds for several species of marine turtles. Both government and the private sector, specifically the privately owned Montemar Beach Resort, have started initiatives to protect the reptiles.

CROWNE Royal Hotel owned by Oscar and Mila Banzon is at the heart of Balanga.

ZERO KILOMETER Marker in Bagac, one of two starting points of the infamous Death March

There also seems to be a strong consciousness about environmental protection, with signs all over the province reminding people about proper waste disposal, recycling and reuse. Packaging of many local products carries the same reminders.

Contemporary

While firmly anchored on its glorious past, Bataan also wants to show it is very much into the 21st century, even as it anticipates the future. It wants to be known for more than just the Fall of Bataan but also as a province with unique charms, distinctive products, a vibrant artistic community as exemplified by Siklab (Sining at Kultura ng Lahing Bataan, a coalition of various art groups), and a place of untapped economic and business potential.

Being close to the sea, its cuisine consists mainly of seafood sourced from the Orani Fish Port. The province has adopted the one-town, one-product policy, a concept popularized in Japan's Oita Prefecture, with local manufacturers, craftsmen and entrepreneurs producing a wide range of goods from export-quality *polvoron* to hand-painted bags, fruit preserves, coffee, *kasuy* and the best-selling *tinapang banak*, among others.

Many ordinary Filipinos may still be unable to look past the Bataan of history but the province's business and economic potential seems to have been recognized. Several industries, particularly oil companies, have set up plants in its coastal towns.

And now, the Ayala group has started devel-

THE RISE/ C3

All Bataan photos by Joan Bondoc

MT. SAMAT'S Dambana ng Kagitingan, Bataan's most recognizable symbol

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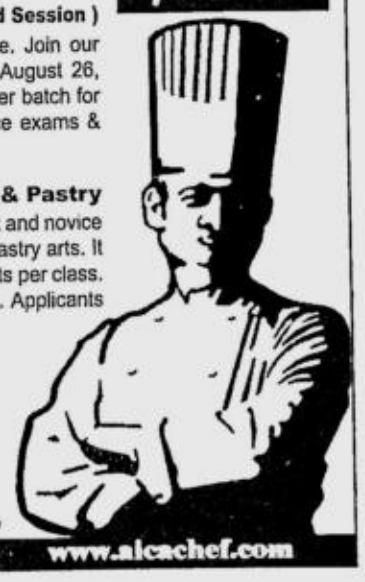

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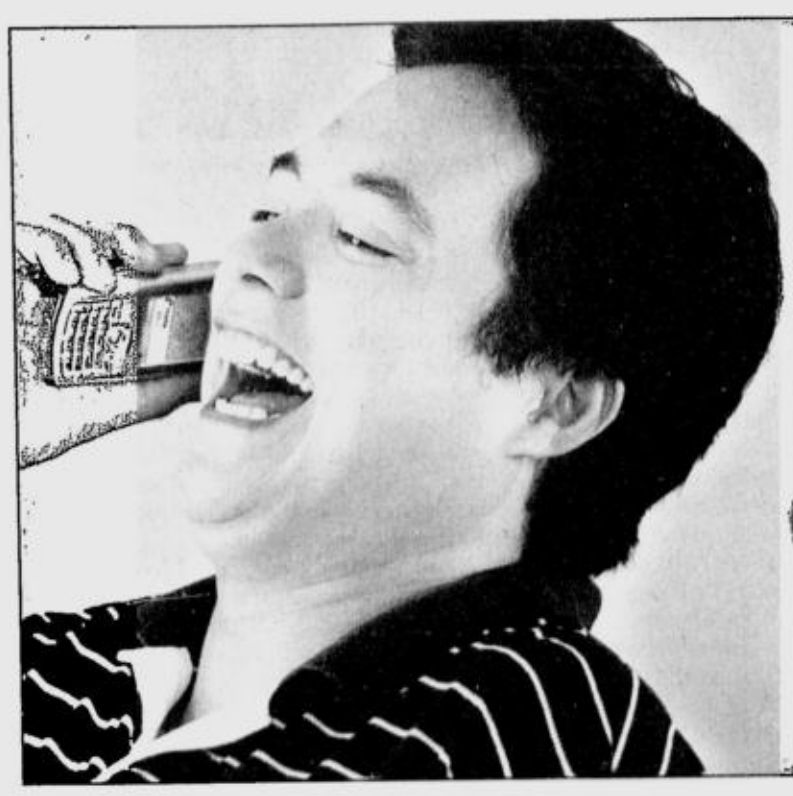

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DAHIL SMART TAYO

A rich harvest of flavor

BATAAN takes pride in its wide variety of *tinapa—kabasi, salinas, kapak*, tilapia, *bangus*.

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

NATURALLY RICH IN MARINE life nourished by the South China Sea, Bataan has boosted its supply of prized seafood through fish ponds that dot its coastline.

Production seems to follow the one-town one-product policy the province has adopted: *sugpo* (tiger prawns) from Orani, *tahong* and *talaba* from Samal and Abucay, tilapia (pla-pla) from Pilar, squid from Mariveles.

The fresh produce is available in bulk at the Orani Fish Port, open only on weekdays, and, for purchases of smaller volumes, in most public markets.

In Abucay and Balanga, a kilo of *sugpo* costs P350. You can get a few extra pieces if the vendor likes you. Female crabs in Balanga sell for P350/kg while males cost P250/kg.

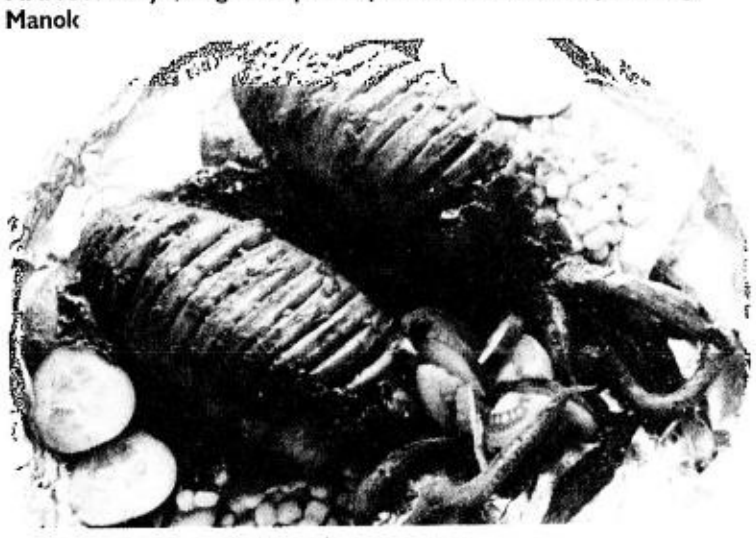
Also a must-buy in Bataan is smoked fish. It is well-known for, and probably the exclusive source of, *tinapang banak* and tilapia (¼ kg of tilapia costs P100). Also available are *tinapang salinas*, *kapak* and *bangus*.

Developing into another winner is *tinapang kabasi*. Despite being bony, almost like *bangus*, its flesh is sweet and soft. It sells for P30 for half a kilo.

The *tinapas* from Bataan are distinctive, packaged in styrofoam or vacuum-packed for longer shelf life.

Dried fish—*tuyo, daing, binuro*; and *bagoong, patis, ginamos* are also sold in Bataan public markets, not surprising given the rich harvest from the sea and the fish ponds. A 350ml bottle of *bagoong isda* costs P15.

MANOK sa Ayo, a light soup dish quite similar to Sinampalukang Manok



ROMALAINE'S Stuffed Squid

'Manok sa Ayo'

Bataan also boasts of unique delicacies.

Manok sa Ayo is a light soup dish quite similar to Sinampalukang Manok. Chicken is boiled with ginger, green papaya or *sayote* and the leaves of *ayo*, which grows in its mountains.

Ayo is meant to remove unpleasant taste and smell. It is also a souring agent.

Slow cooking is the secret of this dish as it coaxes the flavors out of the ingredients, allowing them to blend. Making the dish tastier is the use of native, free-range chicken.

Kinilaw is also a provincial staple, given the availability of very fresh ingredients.

Kakanin

Like any other part of the Philippines, Bataan has its own native rice cakes. One of the popular *kakanin* is the *bibingka* cassava from Estrella's Eatery (0920-2318324) at 63 Naval St., Cupang North, Balanga, the capital city.

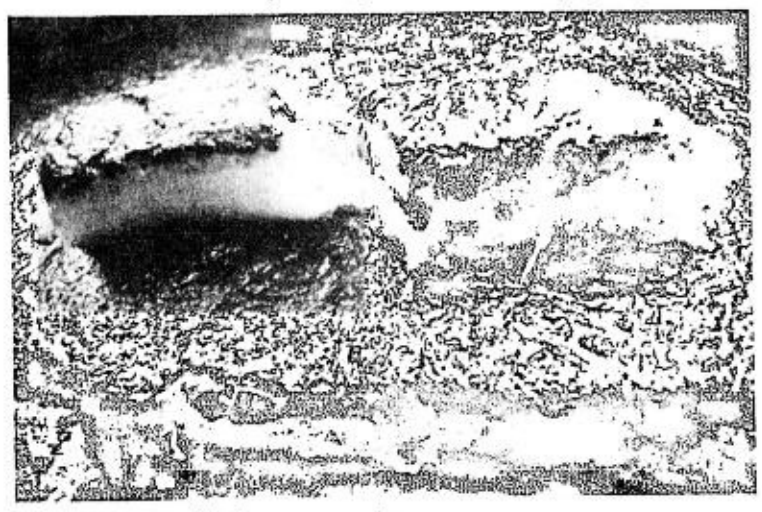
Owned and operated by the shy and unassuming Estrella de Mesa, the eatery has been around for 10 years. De Mesa and her assistants make *bibingka* and *suman sa lihiya* in the early hours, making sure the *malagkit* is perfectly cooked and blended. A huge *bilao* of cassava costs P500 while *suman* sells for P8 a piece. The products are usually sold out by 3 p.m.

Despite its unassuming appearance, the place is patronized by people from all walks of life eager to take not just the *bibingka* and *suman* but also freshly cooked *paladosdos, ginataan bilo-bilo* elsewhere, a merry mix of *bilo-bilo, langka*, banana and *kamote*.

Also briskly selling are De Mesa's *pancit luglog, pancit guisado/canton, mami, lomi* and *spabok* (her own concoction, a combination of spaghetti and *palabok*).

A VISIT to Bataan is not complete without a taste of its fresh *sugpo* (tiger prawns).

CASHEW nuts are prepared several ways (roasted, salted or unsalted) by Bagac Farms.



ESTRELLA'S to-die-for cassava cake

The province is known for, and probably the exclusive source of, 'tinapang banak' and tilapia

Pasalubong

Of course, any trip means bringing home *pasalubong*. Bataan has several to offer. Joyce's Araro cookies and Lengua de Gato/Gorgoria are specialties of Orani, Bataan.

Also from Orani is NC Roasted Ground Coffee, 100-percent pure organic produce from the historic hills of Bataan.

Cashew nuts are prepared several ways by Bagac Farms.

Beakris House of Goodies (0917-3901725) offers *polvoron* in both traditional and new flavors. The most saleable right now is the chocolate-covered *polvoron* that literally melts in your mouth. It is available in both dark and white variants.

Other *polvoron* flavors are *pinipig*, cookies and cream, and peanut butter. Manager Pamela Santos says, since they started making *polvoron* in 1996, it has become a popular *pasalubong* among *balikbayan*.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph.

A sanctuary for the pawikan

Many former nemeses of marine turtles are now their dedicated protectors

By Linda B. Bolido

LAPPED BY THE GENTLER waves of the China Sea, the coasts of Bataan's Morong and Bagac towns are favorite breeding grounds of three of the country's five marine turtle species, collectively known as *pawikan*.

In the past, people living along the shorelines augmented incomes derived mainly from fishing or supplemented simple meals by harvesting the ping pong-shaped eggs left buried under the sand.

A turtle egg, which some believe to be aphrodisiac, fetched P8-P10 in the market, providing additional income to fishermen during the reptile's nesting season between October and February.

But a growing environmental awareness has turned many of the turtles' former nemeses into their dedicated protectors. In at least two centers, fisherfolk, as well as beachcombers and ordinary people, drop turtle eggs collected from the shores of Bataan's coastal towns.

The eggs, with rubbery soft shells (eggs drop a few inches from the mother turtle into a hole she digs in the sand, hence, the rubbery texture to cushion their fall so they do not break), are left by the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Private initiative

The membership Montemar Beach Club Inc. (MBCI) has been running its turtle "sanctuary" since 2004. Sanctioned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the local government, the club's Sagip Pawikan project has collected almost 7,000 eggs since it was launched.

In the first year, some 83 percent of close to 2,000 eggs collected, hatched and were released into the sea. In the 2005-2006 nesting season, about 86 percent of more than 5,000 eggs hatched and were released.

The club has also rescued and nursed back to health more than 30 turtles. The reptiles were returned to the sea after they were tagged.

Cristina Reyes-Andrade, front office supervisor, said Jetjam, which rented out jet skis to resort guests, supported the initiative by contributing a percentage of its earnings to the conservation program.

Community effort

Complementing the private initiative is the government's own Community-based Pawikan Conservation project in Morong, Bataan, established in 1999. Its 17 volunteers comb a stretch of about 10 kilometers to collect eggs during the nesting season and to guard against poachers.

Most of the Bantay Pawikan volunteers, like Francisco Magtanong, are fishermen who used to harvest the eggs themselves to sell or to eat. At this time of year, all the center's "babies" are gone so the volunteers' efforts are focused on preserving the coastline to prepare it for the return of its annual visitors.

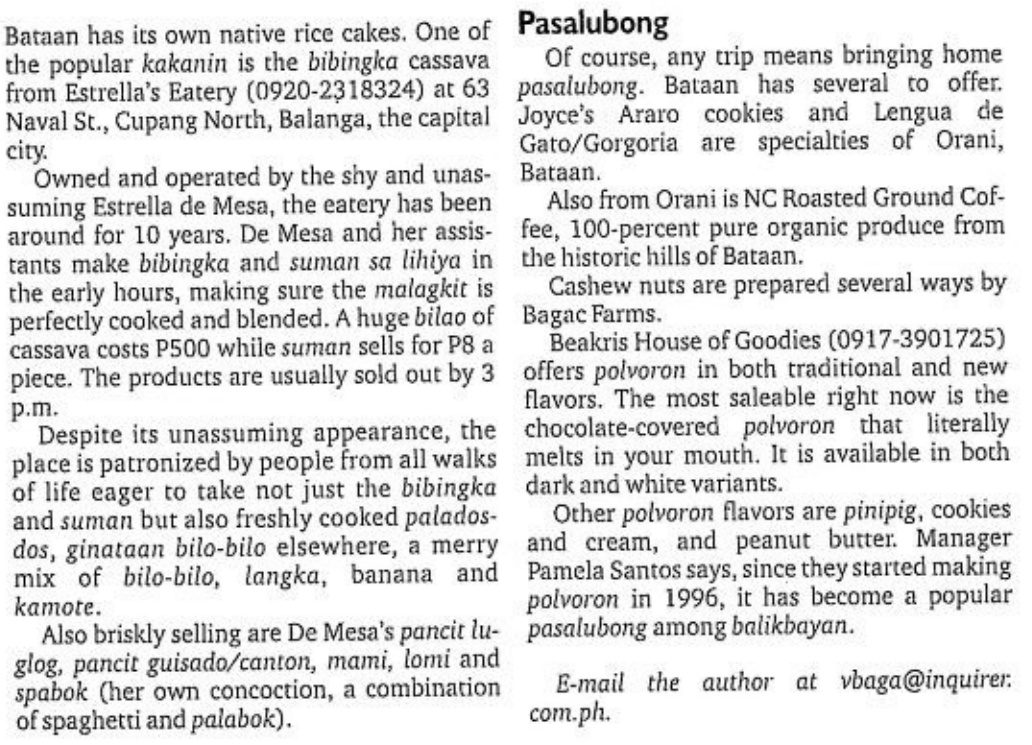
A major component of the multi-pronged initiative, funded by the United Nations Development Program-Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Program Philippines, is to provide supplemental livelihood for the volunteers, as well as the rest of the community, to make it unnecessary for them to harvest turtle eggs for monetary gain.

The project is supported by the DENR, provincial government, Unlad-Bataan (a multi-sectoral coalition for the promotion of the province's progress and development), and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

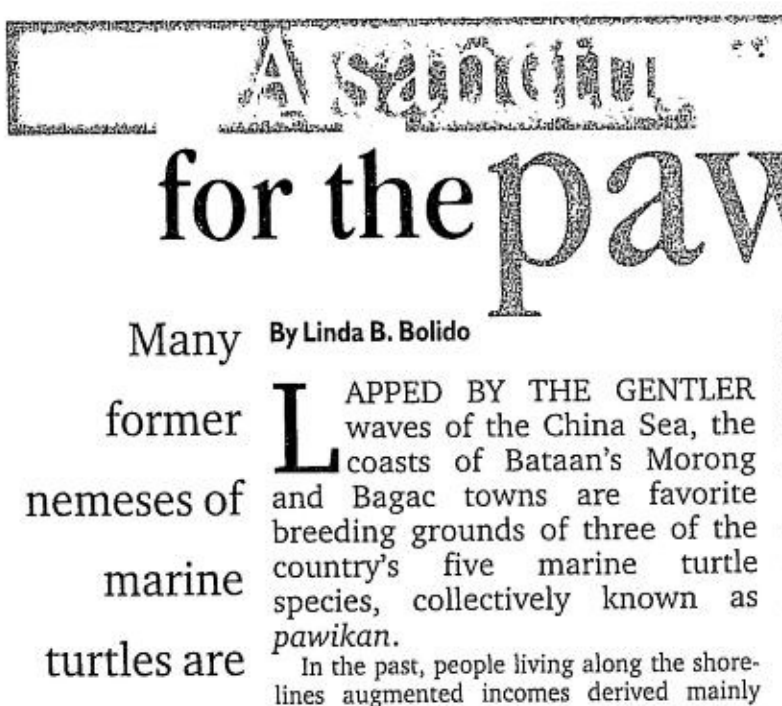
In addition to conservation efforts like the *pawikan* project, there also seems to be a growing awareness throughout the province of the need to protect and preserve the environment. Signs reminding people to keep their surroundings clean and dispose of their trash properly jostle for space with markers of important historical sites.

Entrepreneurs, particularly food manufacturers, have incorporated reminders about proper waste disposal into the packaging of their various products, from *polvoron* to preserved fruits.

All this seems to augur well for Bataan's goal of projecting an image as an eco-tourist destination.



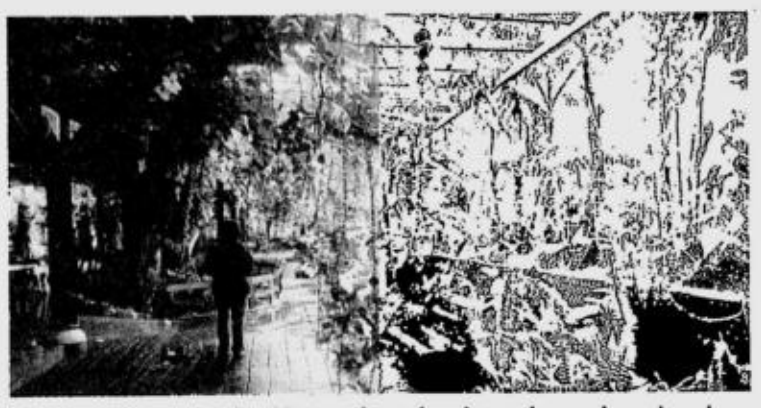
THE COMMUNITY-BASED Pawikan Conservation project in Morong helps educate children on the need to protect turtles. JOAN BONDOC



BATAAN'S coastline is breeding ground for three of the country's five turtle species. LINDA BOLIDO

The rise of Bataan

From page C1



LA VISTA Balanga Inland Resort has a lovely garden and a swimming pool that includes water slides for kids.

opment of Anvaya Cove, turning it into an exclusive, high-end vacation spot for a lucky few.

The next pages showcase some of what Bataan considers its top attractions.

Bataan is 124 km away from Manila, some 2½ hours away by car. Buses of the Genesis Transport Service Inc. ply the Manila-Bataan route daily from terminals in Pasay and Quezon cities. A regular sea ferry also leaves everyday from the Cultural Arts Complex on Roxas Boulevard.

Visitors can get comfortable accommodations at a wide range of prices from several hotels, like the Crowne Royal Hotel and the La Vista Balanga Inland Resort owned by Oscar and Mila Banzon.

ANVAYA Cove is being developed into an exclusive, high-end vacation spot by the Ayala group.

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Crafts and souvenir center

By Anne A. Jambora

HOME TO GALLANT HEROES AND DEFIANT purple hearts, Bataan is a historic province associated with the infamous Death March during World War II. Today, this little province southwest of Central Luzon is determined to make news once more, but of a brighter kind. It aims to become a center of souvenir gift items.

The province has geared up its local craftsmen to jumpstart its blossoming souvenir industry. The Provincial Tourism Office and the Bataan Tourism Council Foundation Inc. had planned on making the province a major tourist destination, but they realized the souvenir industry must be fostered to complement the tourism program.

So it was that more than a decade ago the Department of Trade and Industry-Bataan began product clinics to spark interest in handicrafts production. Townsfolk were taught the basics, from sourcing to production and costing. Conducted by the Philippine Trade Training Center, the DTI Trade Training Center and the Cottage Industry Training Center, locals were likewise educated on negotiating with buyers, marketing and exporting.

ETHNIC. This set of three small jars costs only P540.

Among those who attended the workshops was Ryan Santos. Juggling odd jobs, he needed a business to support his family on rainy days.

As a child, he said, he witnessed the abundance of capiz in the province. He said some 10 tons would be harvested on a good season. The enormous yield often left him wondering what happened to the translucent shells. Last year, with his father Edilberto and eight other Bataaños, he decided to learn the fundamentals of the capiz business.

Capiz come in many sizes, so the flexibility to put into production their possible uses, mostly as curios and ornaments, is not a problem. All it takes is glue, brass, toner for luster, and a good deal of imagination.

New in the business, Santos, 27, and his father turn the shells into the familiar lanterns and balls—rather imperfectly, he said. Although the father-and-son team has been generating modest orders from fellow Bataaños, Santos conceded there's still so much to learn.

Capiz is a seasonal industry; it takes about four to six months before the shells are ripe for the picking. The demand is seasonal as well, rising in November and December, and during town festivities. So it came as no surprise when, among the Bataaños who ventured into the business last year, only the Santoses have remained.

DETAILS. The deer-hunting design is inspired by a Persian rug pattern.

But there's always the local government to rely on, Santos said. His products are always displayed at the local tourism office, and orders, although minimal and inconsistent, have mostly been coursed through the local DOT.

The DTI-Bataan has been pushing local handicrafts to exporters through municipal, provincial, regional and national trade fairs. The Bataan DOT-DTI recently sought out partnership with the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines.

The crafts company RF Jarhaus was once a player in the export industry. Owned by Ruben Fajardo, it made jars painted with original ethnic designs as well as Persian or Arabian motifs.

An educator, Fajardo retired in 1987 to pursue full-time his jar-making business. The future was bright. It was the height of the Philippine export industry.

But when the country lost its grip on the foreign market in the mid-'90s, Fajardo had to go back to the workforce. Now 62, he teaches Filipino to high-school students.

His jar business, however, is still thriving. From April to June alone this year, his company generated a single order worth P380,000. Still, he said the net profit is just a little above the production overhead.

Dandomia Crafts, specializing in handpainted garments, also relies on the foreign market. Owned by Carmen and Redentor Asprer, the company started 15 years ago when Carmen attended a crafts project in Manila.

Times were good until a few years back, when China's cheap exports flooded the global market. Dandomia Crafts now relies on orders gathered from trade fairs and bazaars. With help from the local government, Redentor hopes business will pick up again.

With an eye on the tourist market, the company paints blooms, shells and fish on shirts, bags, table runners, etc. The designs are not particularly distinct and telling of the Philippines and Filipino culture. Those patterns worked in the past, he said, and he's sticking to what works rather than risk losing his market.

The provincial government is working on a Pasalubong Center, a one-stop souvenir shop and information center showcasing local delicacies and handicrafts. When the province's tourism campaign goes full blast this year, it hopes to find a market the handicrafts industry badly needs.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

BLOOMS. Flowers hand-painted on bags are a hit among foreign tourists.

TABLE runners with hand-painted designs and embroidered edges

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HEROIC figures welcome visitors at the First Line of Defense Marker in Layac, Dinalupihan.

Bataan lets freedom ring

The obscure peninsula became a battle hymn of the republic, the mere mention of its name a cry in the dark, its remembrance an ode to universal freedom

By Constantino C. Tejero

IMPROBABLY, THE BATAEÑOS have a world war to thank for whatever fame and fortune they are enjoying now.

A small peninsula jutting like an appendix in the belly of Manila Bay, the place was relatively unknown until 65 years ago.

Though some of its towns were founded by the Dominicans, Recollects and Franciscans in late 16th century, that region at the southwestern part of Central Luzon was originally divided between the province of Pampanga and the *corregimiento* of Mariveles.

It wasn't until almost two centuries later, in 1754, that the province of Bataan was established by Gov. Gen. Pedro Manuel Arandia.

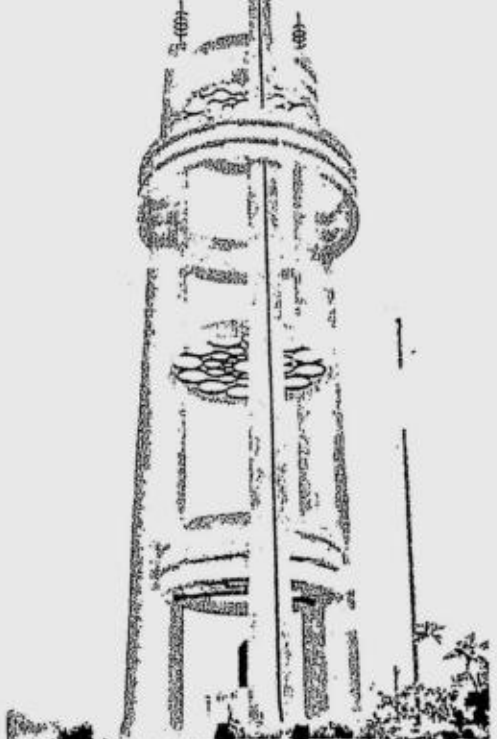
The period before that might as well have been the Dark Ages, save for two or three flashes in the dark. In 1574, the dreaded Chinese pirate Limahong used Lusong point at the western side of Bataan, facing South China Sea, as a landing place. In 1647, the Dutch naval forces perpetrated the Abucay Massacre.

Then came the Pacific War.

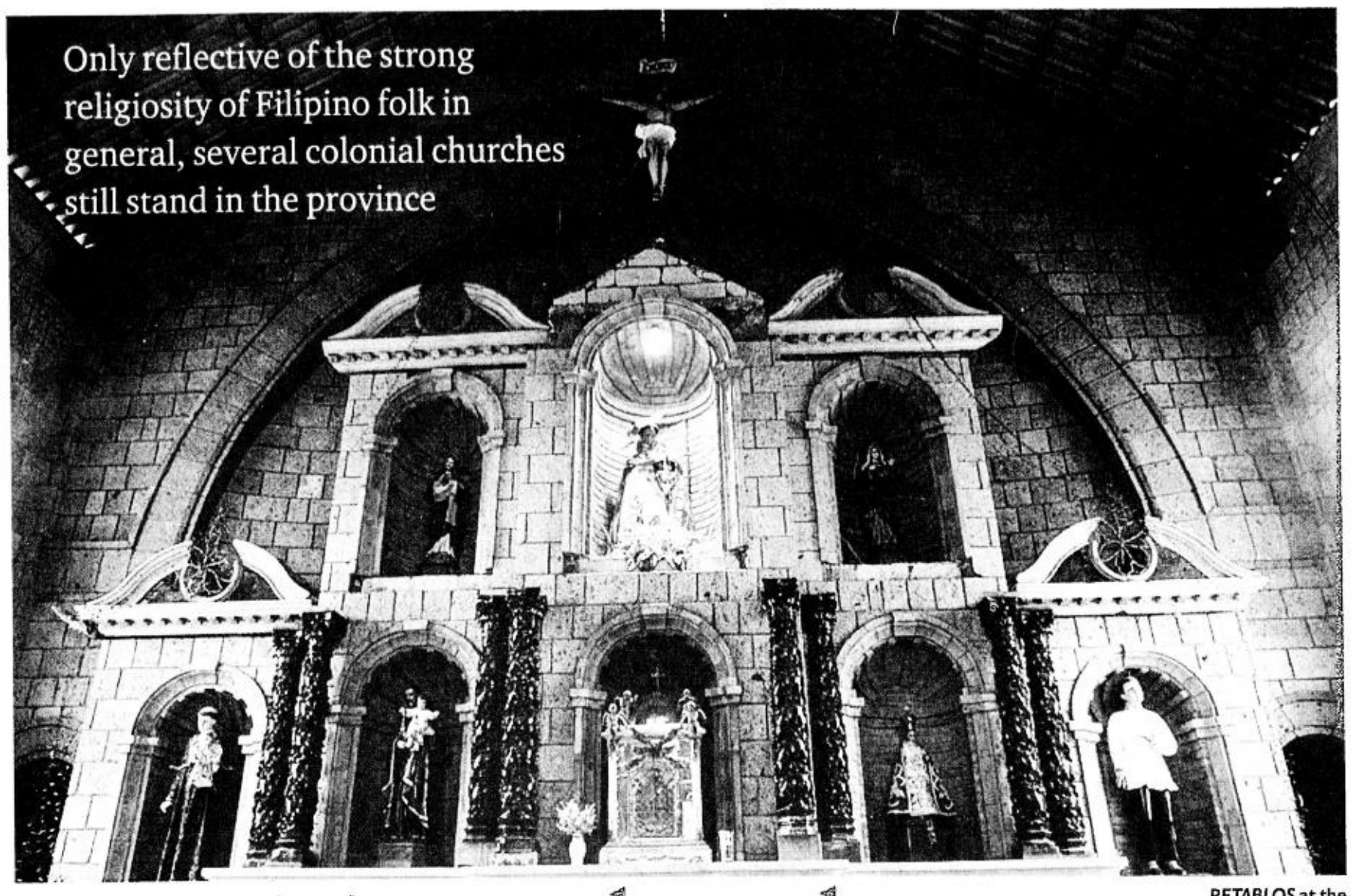
Suddenly the obscure peninsula became a battle hymn of the republic, the mere mention of its name a cry in the dark, its remembrance an ode to universal freedom. Standing as the last bastion of Filipino and American soldiers against the Japanese forces until it fell on

BATAAN/ D2

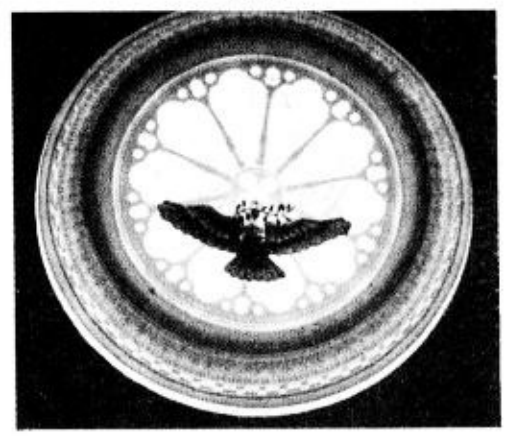
THE FLAMING Sword in Panilao, Pilar, reminds Filipino youths of the gallantry and courage of their forefathers.



PHILIPPINE-JAPANESE Friendship Tower in Bagac, a poignant memorial dedicated to the quest for peace



RETABLOS at the altar of St. Peter de Verona Church in Hermosa, Bataan



DETAILS of ecclesiastical art on the walls, doors and ceilings of Bataan's colonial churches

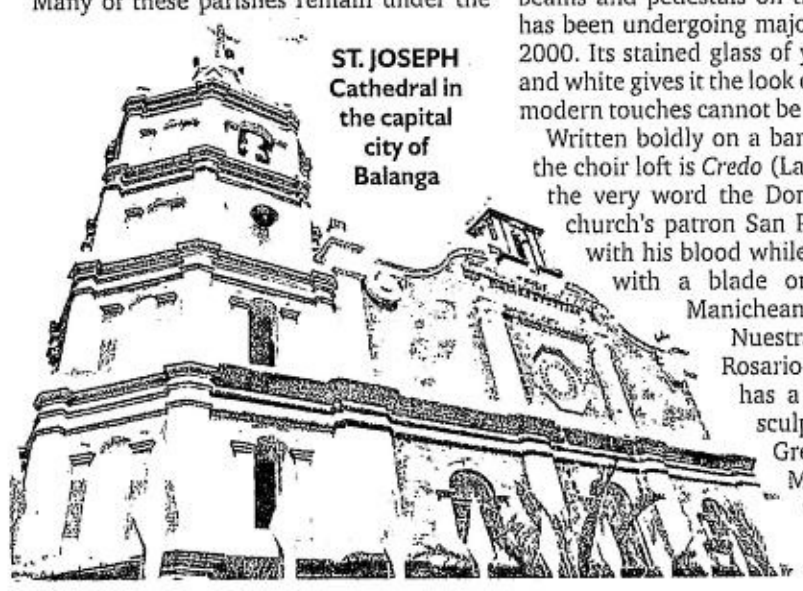
Surprising cultural landmarks

By Constantino C. Tejero

BATAAN HAS BEEN INEXTRICABLY linked with memories of the Second World War that many visitors are fairly surprised to find some cultural landmarks in the province other than those war memorials.

Only reflective of the strong religiosity of Filipino folk in general, several colonial churches still stand in the province. They may not be as massive or ornate as those that can be found in Ilocos, Bohol or Iloilo, but a few are just as ancient.

Many of these parishes remain under the jurisdiction of the Dominicans, Augustinian Recollects and Franciscans as they had been when those religious orders were founding Bataan's towns one after another from late 16th century to early 20th century.



ST. JOSEPH Cathedral in the capital city of Balanga

There is St. Peter de Verona Church in Hermosa, which just celebrated its 250th jubilee year on June 4. Known to be the richest parish in the province, it became the residence of the provincial chapter of the Dominicans in 1763.

The original structure of this pilgrimage church was largely destroyed by earthquake in 1999, and only the original door shutters, beams and pedestals on the altar remain. It has been undergoing major renovation since 2000. Its stained glass of yellow, green, blue and white gives it the look of antiquity, but the modern touches cannot be denied.

Written boldly on a banner on the side of the choir loft is *Credo* (Latin for "I believe"), the very word the Dominican priest and church's patron San Pedro Martir wrote with his blood while dying after struck with a blade on the head by a Manichean heretic.

Nuestra Señora Virgen del Rosario Church in Orani has a miraculous image sculptured in 1360 by a Greek named Parek Morey. The church was recently given by the Vatican the privilege of granting plenary indulgence to pilgrims visiting its shrine.

The original church built in 1792 was destroyed by earthquake and reconstructed several times. The present church is a 1945 reconstruction after it was destroyed by the Japanese in 1941.

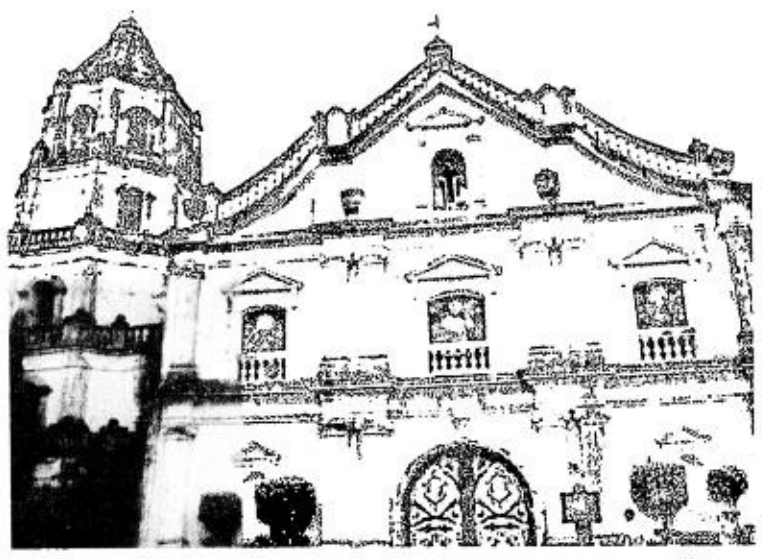
Its interior is of beige walls and ceilings, but quite unique as its 14 Stations of the Cross in white bas-relief panels on brown doors are each replicated in high reliefs on the walls, then in paintings on the ceiling.

The exterior is just as astonishing: a jumble of vaulted arches, false columns, pilasters, pediments, volutes, wall brackets, fanlights, rosettes, embellishments shaped like pineapples and snail spirals, balusters on the belfry. This certainly speaks of the Filipino's love for lavish ornamentation and elaborate design.

St. Joseph Cathedral in the capital city of Balanga obviously looks modern, but it is historical nonetheless as its bell tower had been used as a site for the Japanese artillery bombardment of Mt. Samat.

St. Dominic Church in Abucay is the oldest in the province at 419 years, but is also the nth reconstruction of the original. (Just outside the structure, at right, can still be seen the tiled floor of the church destroyed by earthquake and fire in the 19th century, with a black-and-white nave accented by multicolor tiles with Moorish motif.)

On one brown hardwood portal is a white relief panel depicting the symbols of the Four Evangelists. At the threshold stands a life-size angel in wood.



ST. DOMINIC Church in Abucay, the oldest in the province at 416 years

RELIEF of the symbols of the Four Evangelists on the hardwood portal of Abucay church

This used to be the richest parish in the province, with the largest rectory and religious objects of sterling silver and gold. Its belfry had five huge bells, of which only one remains.

The bell tower appears to be slightly leaning. Behind it, at the left of the church, is a cemetery.

On the church's exterior wall is a marker locating one of the earliest printing presses operating in the country. In this church, in 1610, Tomas Pinpin and Fr. Blancas San José co-authored and printed the earliest books in the country.

And those who have short memory may be reminded by a marker in Orion locating the birthplace of Cayetano Arellano, the first Filipino Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Bataan lets freedom ring

From page D1

April 9, 1942, it is today a symbol of democracy.

This was acknowledged by no less than American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in a radio broadcast on Jan. 5, 1945: "The little mountainous peninsula of Bataan saved democracy and the whole world from the evil hands of the devil."

(In today's global context, that would sound hyperbolic, even redundant, if not patently racist, but in the context of that time, it was moving.)

National landmarks

Dotted all over the peninsula are some 25 monuments and memorials to the heroism and human pathos of that war, about a third of them national historical landmarks.

As soon as one enters the province from the national highway, 2.5 km from the boundary of Pampanga, one comes upon the First Line of Defense Marker at the center of a rotunda in Dinalupihan.

Erected by the Filipino-American Memorial Endowment to commemorate the Battle of Layac Junction, it is a heroic group sculpture in concrete painted bronze depicting eight figures in various poses of struggle.

In the plaza of Hermosa, fronting the church, is the marble Km. 62 Death March Marker. It memorializes "the daring efforts of the people of Hermosa in providing food and shelter to Filipino and American soldiers during the march to Capas, Tarlac."

In the capital, at Balanga Elementary School, is Diwa ng Bataan marking the site, under a mango tree behind the schoolhouse, where Maj. Gen. Edward King signed Bataan's surrender.

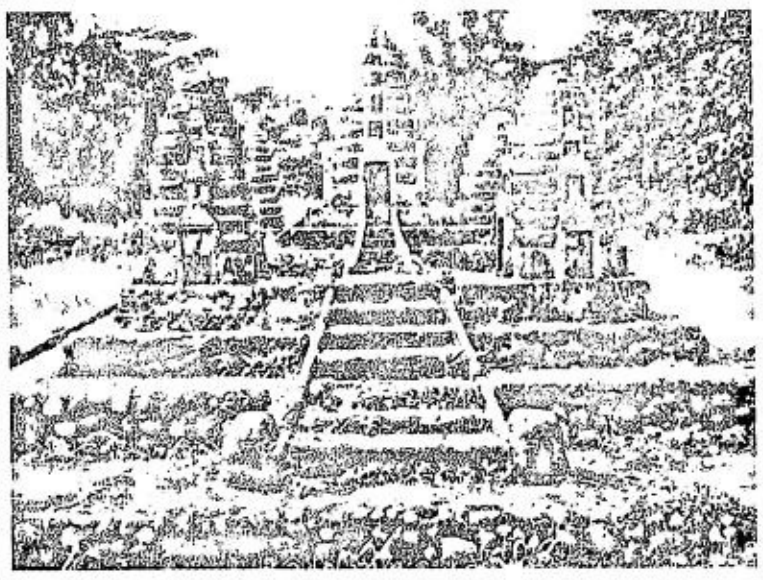
In the *poblacion* of Mariveles, the Zero Kilometer Marker commemorates the start of the 1942 Death March to Camp O'Donnell in Capas, considered "one of the most hellish concentration camps of Second World War." Some 10,000 Filipinos are believed to have died on that historic march.

The memorial consists of an obelisk and a bayonet thrust into the ground. A similar memorial can be found in Bagac, one of the two starting points of that infamous march.

The Flaming Sword in Panilao, Pilar, is actually a gray obelisk with a base shaped into a hilt and a hand holding it up, making it appear like a giant sword in the distance. It symbolizes Filipino gallantry and courage in the face of threats to peace and freedom.

Glorious monument

The Shrine of Valor, or Dambana ng Kagitingan, in Mt. Samat, also in Pilar, is certainly one of the glories of Philippine



REPLICA of Angkor Wat at the former refugee center in Morong

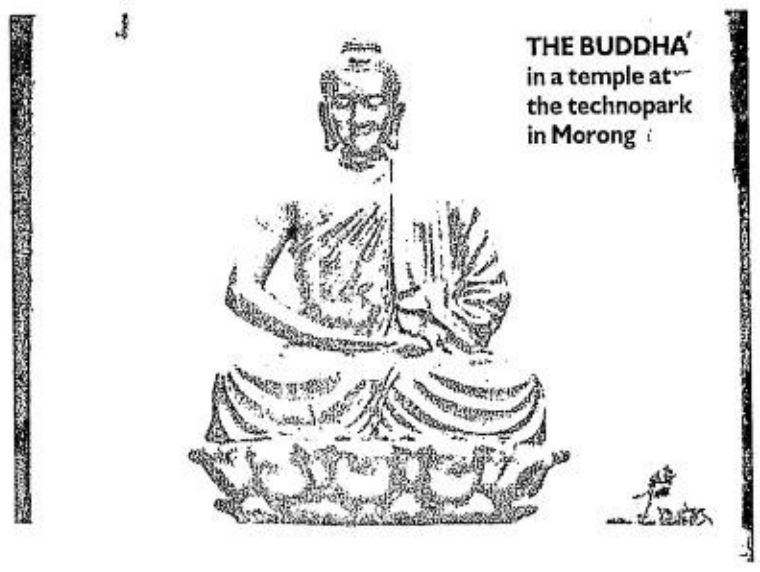
monuments. Inaugurated in 1970, the mammoth structure was built to honor the defenders of the country during World War II.

This national shrine consists of a marble-capped colonnade with an altar, esplanade and museum; and a 92-meter memorial cross of steel and reinforced concrete with an elevator and a viewing gallery.

A blow-by-blow account of the Battle of Bataan is engraved on the walls of the colonnade. Significant battles and historic events are depicted in marble bas-relief and stained-glass mural in both colonnade and cross. The two are connected by a 14-flight zigzagging footpath on the mountain slope, paved with bloodstones from the island of Corregidor.

Finally, there is the Philippine-Japanese Friendship Tower in Bagac, a poignant memorial built by an organization of Buddhist laymen called Rissho Kosei-kai in cooperation with the provincial government.

This soaring monument of white concrete consists of three slender pillars holding up clusters of 10 rings to form a giant cylinder. Dated April 8, 1975, the marker is "dedicated to those who suffered in World War II, as a peace offering and symbol of man's quest for peace..."



THE BUDDHA in a temple at the technopark in Morong

Hallowed ground

Not related to WWII, but still a memorial to the universal love of freedom, are those strange structures dotting the Bataan Technology Park in Morong.

The place was the site of the Philippine Refugee Processing Center from 1980 to 1994, offering asylum to some 400,000 refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. By the time the refugees were resettled in the United States, Australia and Europe, they left behind imprints of their cultures.

So now there is this Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) version of Nayong Filipino in the jungle of Subic: mini replicas in painted concrete and stone of two Buddhist temples, the Khmer Monument, the Vietnamese Monument, the Bayon, Angkor Wat, That Luang (the most ornate); and a large Indochinese map (a stone marker), a specimen of a refugee boat (the mode of transport of most refugees), even a heroic figure of the Blessed Virgin Mary (built by Vietnamese Catholics).

These clusters of cultural legacies strongly evoke the spirit of that tower monument in Bagac which, the marker says, exemplifies "the blending of Buddhist compassion and Christian love, thereby achieving a sense of unity despite differences in culture, politics and religion."

The wistful injunction engraved on that marker still rings in the air, sounding particularly poignant in these interesting times: "Go forth, tell the world that from this hallowed ground people have taken the first steps toward world peace."

PHOTO EXHIBIT OPENS AT NAIA
YKL Color Lab showcased its high-quality printing technology during the recent opening of the new photo displays at the Dignitaries Lounge of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City. On display are hundreds of images of over 30 vacation spots in the country taken by travel photographer George Tapan. Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and Manila International Airport Authority general manager Alfonso Cusi opened the exhibit. High-quality, color-rich printing of YKL Color Lab is available in any Fujifilm Digital Imaging Stations through digital minilab and Eazy Pix Stations at selected Fujifilm/YKL outlets nationwide.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Oasis in the heart of La Union

Oasis Country Resort, the only five-star hotel in the heart of La Union, provides a perfect base from which to experience the many heritage and nature excursions offered throughout the province and the Ilocos Region.

Situated along the National Highway in Oasis Center in Barangay Sevilla in San Fernando City, about 5-6 hours drive by bus from Manila, Oasis features 53 fully equipped and furnished room accommodations; fine-dining restaurants that serve local and international cuisines; a fast-food restaurant for rush-hour dining, recreation and entertainment facilities; as well as spacious conference halls and function rooms that can accommodate 800-1,000 guests. Day tours around San Fernando City and nearby towns can also be arranged at the hotel by simply visiting the DOT's regional office, which occupies a space at the first level of the Oasis building. DOT will provide the guided tour, while the resort takes care of the vehicle for sightseeing. After the day's adventure, relax by the mini-Olympic swimming pool and kiddie pool located near the Mediterranean-style *casitas* and villas or by relaxing to the sounds of music with outdoor seating and entertainment area designed to celebrate special events for up to 200 people. Guests can also enjoy the Lobby Coffee Bar, the Channel "F" KTV Music Box with private rooms, and souvenir shop.

Call 7255096, fax 7255443; call the La Union office at (072) 2425621 or fax (072) 2425610.

Travel workshop

Air Miles Management is holding its first Travel Photo Workshop conducted by George Tapan.

Scheduled monthly, the workshop will bring participants to different international destinations between August and November, where they will stay for 9-12 days. Among the countries to be visited are Canada, Turkey, Cambodia and Vietnam, China, including Tibet.

Participants in the workshops would get a chance to feature their best shots in a photo exhibit and other Air Miles projects. Each workshop will be limited to 25 participants. Call 8994834 or telefax 8976556 or e-mail airmiles@surfshop.net.ph

Triathlon in Macau

The celebration of 2006 Macau World Heritage Year continues with the holding of the 18th ITU Macau International Triathlon today and the Macau FIBV Women's Volleyball World Grand Prix Aug. 25-27. Call 8122595 and 8130947.

Marian pilgrimage

Fr. Gerry Tapiador leads the Marian pilgrimage Sept. 30-Oct. 13. The 14-day tour includes visits to Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal, as well as seven basilicas in Rome, Italy, including an audience with the Pope; the Black Virgin, or Virgen Moreneta in Montserrat, Spain; the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain, the cathedral in Salamanca; the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and its museum in Spain; the Bleeding Host at St. Stephen's Church in Santarem, Portugal; and the cathedral of St. Anthony of Padua in Lisbon, Portugal. Call 8156925 or 8154938.

A lot of beach to enjoy

Boracay Regency Beach Resort and Convention Center offers amenities to help ensure guests a pleasurable stay. The hotel boasts of having the widest beach front, the most number of rooms, the largest convention facility and several dining and leisure choices. Enjoy a coffee frappuccino at Café Christina or have a Zen moment with the large and colorful koi in ponds surrounding the property. In the evening, party at Wave underground beach disco bar. Call 5238707/08.

Room promo

The Bellevue Hotel presents "Call It a Day Promo." Guests can avail of a five-star de luxe room amenities for a full day for only P2500 net. The promo is valid during weekends until Sept. 30 for local residents. Call 7718181 for inquiries.

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Paris-based Filipino Vicente Zaragoza organized 'An Evening with the Stars' for the benefit of indigent Filipino children

An evening with Monegasque royalty

MICHEL AND AMPARITO **Lhuillier** were recently in France, first and foremost to spend time in Paris with their children **Yvette (nèe Lhuillier)** and **Franck Warnod**, and grandchildren **Maxim** and **Bianca**.

While there, they visited the French Riviera twice. First they went to Monte Carlo in the Principality of Monaco for the gala "An Evening with the Stars." It was organized by Paris-based Filipino **Vicente Zaragoza** for the benefit of indigent children in the Philippines, primarily to provide for their education.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

His Serene Highness **Prince Albert III** of Monaco attended the event at the Salon Empire of the Hotel de Paris, one of the highest-rated hotels in the world. He was duly introduced to the Cebuanos by Monaco's beauteous consul in Manila, **Fortune Ledesma**.

Aside from Amparito and Michel, Yvette and Franck, also present were the Philippines' Ambassador to Italy **Philippe Lhuillier**, with wife **Edna Diago Lhuillier** and their daughter **Camille**; **Mariquita Yeung** and her friend **Cora Schweimer** who flew in from London.

Michel and Amparito went next to La Cote d'Azur to attend two events of La Chaine des Rotisseurs. One was a chapter gathering at the Hotel Majestic Barriere and the other a fellowship at the plush Carlton Hotel.

Michel was formally inducted Baili Conseller Delegue of La Chaine for the Philippines. Amparito has been the head of La Chaine in Cebu for 14 years now. The chapter is the only one in the world to have a husband and wife holding those two posts at the same time.

Back in Cebu, they presided over a memorable dinner at the Palermo Italian restaurant of scenic Plantation Bay in Mactan. It was one of the best in a long while, everyone told the resort's GM **Efren Belarmino**, F/B manager **Enzo Ciliani** who planned the whole thing, and guest chef **Romano Bigliardi** who was flown from Mallorca and Ibiza for the purpose.

The menu was fantastic and the portions were not overwhelming. How's paté of bone marrow on canapes for starters? Then came shrimps on Cannellini beans, delicate ravioli stuffed with spinach, and filets of pigeon in salmi sauce.

After the Campari sherbet came the most tender of beef medallions, bathed in Barolo wine sauce and molten *foie gras*. Dessert was a veritable digestive: glazed pear in red wine, stuffed with a scoop of *gelato*.

"Quick before it melts," someone purred to his pretty partner.

Fine Italian wines, red and white, were served throughout dinner. Conversation was lively as there was no seating arrangement. Friends formed their own groups.

IN MONTE Carlo. Yvette Lhuillier Warnod, Cora Schweimer, Michel Lhuillier, Amparito Lhuillier, Vicente Zaragoza, Mariquita Yeung and Edna Diago Lhuillier

CHEF Romano Bigliardi, Plantation Bay's Enzo Ciliani and Cecilia Rodriguez Villarroya

MONA Lisa Vidal, Azarsuri Vidal and painter Mar Vidal

Everyone became quiet when 17-year-old **Azarzuri Vidal** rendered a series of operatic arias.

With no formal training, she taught herself to sing opera and art songs, inspired by **Sarah Brightman**. She has several compact discs with the accompaniment for such staples as "O Sole Mio," the "Habanera" from Carmen, "Song to the Moon" from Rsualka, "Nessun Dorma" from Turandot, and more.

Azarzuri has become the toast of Cebu. Now she has enrolled for music lessons with ace teacher Mila Nadala. She is also getting used to having the piano for accompaniment. Someone has facilitated a four-year scholarship in Yale University for her, starting 2007.

A wisp of a girl with the powerful and beautiful voice of a diva, Azarsuri is still a minor. When she leaves for that scholarship, her parents, **Gwen** and **Mar Vidal**, or one of them at least, will accompany her.

Mar is beside himself with joy and pride. He is one of the best painters in Cebu, as well as an excellent art teacher. Many of his pupils have made their mark in the local and international art scene.

A case in point is the internationally famous **Monique Lhuillier**, Michel and Amparito's youngest daughter who is now a celebrity in the fashion world. Monique took art lessons from Mar as a child. That led to her sketching fashion designs. The rest is history, as saying goes.

She is presenting a fashion show in Manila Nov. 12. Many Cebuanos will be there. She'll have a show in Cebu two or three years from now, when she is even more famous, sponsored by her family.

PRINCE Albert of Monaco (right) with Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philippe Lhuillier and daughter Camille

Waterfall Zen garden workshop, Aug. 26-27

LEARN HOW TO MAKE THE WATERFALL Zen Garden for wellness and relaxation.

Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla is conducting a seminar-workshop on this plant art 1-6 p.m., Aug. 26-27, at Metts Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank, cor. Edsa and Quezon Ave., QC.

Believed to bring good luck to homes and business establishments, the waterfall Zen garden is a symbol of peace and tranquility.

The minimum fee will cover materials such as sand, cement, volcanic rocks, motor pump, hose, wires and assorted plants, among others. Participants will also get snacks, handouts and certificate.

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- Serial infrared (IrDA) port
- 3.5-inch Transflective TFT QVGA with 64K colour with LED backlit
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Text us your f… …ssage to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

DIZON 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Daniel and **Enriqueta Dizon**, shown in their wedding photo in 1956, quietly marked recently their golden wedding anniversary at their residence at Villa Gloria, Angeles City. The occasion was attended by family members. **Ben Cabrera** and **Romi Mananquil**, who were with Daniel in the University of the Philippines' Class 1963, were special guest-witnesses.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

MOLINO-DE LEON 50TH

Nena Advincula de Leon and **Fred Daban Molino** celebrated recently their golden anniversary with a eucharistic celebration at Mt. Carmel Church, Roxas City. Bishop **Onesimo Gordoncillo** was main celebrant. The couple has five daughters and a son, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

NARIO DEBUT

Joan Nario, daughter of **Rey** and **Judy Nario**, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at Kalipayan Resort, Cavite. **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day designed her gowns and those of her entourage.

GATCHALIAN DEBUT

Jessa Camille Gatchalian, daughter of **Rhey Gatchalian** and **Maribel Reyes**, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park in Cavite. **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day designed her gown.

ESCUETA DEBUT

Dinalea Lyn B. Escueta, a sophomore at the University of Santo Tomas taking up Nursing, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Aug. 20 at Ibarra's Garden, Padre Faura, Manila. The debutante is the daughter of engineer **Daniel** and **Evelyn Escueta**. She will wear a two-toned gown designed by **Edward Teng**.

LANCÔME'S Zerl Chan and Preview's Pauline Suaco-Juan

L'OREAL country manager David Ennes and Kissa Castañeda

HSBC deputy CEO Martin Cook with Josephine Veneracion and Cecil Santos, first ladies of Janilyn Shoes

HSBC shoe princesses. Annette Tirol, Marion Balagot and Tessa Bautista-Cuenca

LIZA Ilarde-Cuenca, Vicky Tensuan and Melanie Cuevas

Read my lipstick

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

HINDUS BELIEVE that the soul eternally exists in every living being. When we die, our soul transports from one body to another in accordance with the laws of karma and reincarnation. Personally, I believe karma truly exists, manifested through fortunate or unfortunate incidents that happen to us.

If reincarnation was part of the central tenets of my religion, I think I would like to come back as a man (with only the appealing assets, of course), but also having all the inside female knowledge and trade secrets I know. This way, through my dual-knowledge and male reincarnation, I would be able to charm and win the lady of my dreams.

There are a million ways to melt a girl's heart with love and affection. But a charmingly romantic way is to give her the latest, luminous, long-lasting lipstick with a note saying: "May this be the only thing that touches your lips aside from my kiss!"

As with all makeup products, picking the right brand is crucial, but unfortunately, most men are in unfamiliar territory when it comes to lipstick. For radiant, sensual colors, the one to get is Lancôme Color Fever lipstick, which comes in 22 shades and four dazzling effects. Whether you're the type of guy who prefers sensual reds or metallic creams or shimmer pinks, Color Fever is the perfect gift with its slick, lipstick casing.

At the Color Fever launch party at the ultra-chic Citrus Bar, Lancôme guests decked out in dance fever outfits enjoyed the expressive dance artistry of the Ginajane Grey Dance and Art Center.

Also my belly and flamenco guru, dance instructor extraordinaire **Ginajane** choreographed an explosive number with some of her students as inspired by the effects of the lipstick: Natural Cream as put into an energetic jazz/street dance by **Popsie Eliger**; Sensual Satin revealed in a passionate flamenco performance by **Gia Apelo**; Fashionable Sparkle in an upbeat flapper dance by **Jessica Kienle**; and lastly, Chic Metallic in a hypnotizing belly dance by **Sheila Vi-**

> Guys should give their girls lipstick as a gift with the note, 'May this touch your lips other than my kiss'

esca. As a woman's ultimate beauty weapon, Ginajane presented Color Fever in a "Mission Impossible"-inspired finale.

If guys are in search of a date, they should just check out Lancôme events, for these are always overflowing with the most fashionable ladies in town. Alternatively, aspiring Romeos can make friends with Lancôme chief makeup artist **Gela Laurel**, the talented younger sister of enterprising fashion designer **Rajo Laurel**. She can give you tips on what makeup items to buy for your girl that will just surprise her!

Credit card and shoes

For more intense, altar-bound relationships, it would be really impressive if a guy applies for a credit card and gives it to her with a note saying: "I can't buy your love but here is something to use so you can buy what you love!"

Again, it is key to get the right credit card, such as HSBC's Red MasterCard, the country's first and leading credit card for women only.

One of my favorite cards, the Red Card continuously creates promos giving shopping perks for women. I remember one exciting promo that gave a chance to win a diamond ring.

Last year, I took full advantage of the card's tie-up with Store Specialists' shops offering interest-free installment plans for designer brand purchases. This year, the Red Card partnered with Janilyn Shoes, a leading retailer for fashionable footwear in the country.

The "Love Shoes?" promotion was launched at M Café in Greenbelt 4, with seven young women who thrive in their own creative worlds of expertise, all wearing personally designed Janilyn shoes. The Shu Uemura girls created unique stilettos: cool makeup artist **Xeng Zulueta** did a flirty stiletto with green and pink ribbons and playful tassels, while brand manager **Tessa Dragon** embellished her sexy, bronze stilettos with printed, red brocade flowers and black Asian accents.

Funky suede boots were the creations of three expressive artists: jewelry designer **Happy David** echoed the season's latest rock chic trend with semi-precious jewels, ostrich- and cow-strips; playful artist **Astrud Crisologo** attached rainbow socks with colored, suede flowers and vintage button details; and model/photographer **Sara Black** personalized hers with leather and metal trimmings. Peep-toe stilettos were the choice of these two Red ladies: MTV's **Anne Matoto** detailed hers with a single ceramic accessory and pretty **Alessandra Panicucci** added turquoise beadwork.

There is no denying the affinity Pinays have for shoes, so what best to catch any girl's attention than a free pair. Up to Oct. 31, all newly approved Red MasterCard primary applicants are automatically given a free pair of Janilyn Shoes. If you refer a friend, you also get a free pair. For existing Red MasterCard holders like me, we can enjoy a 20-percent discount on any merchandise purchased at Janilyn stores during the promotion.

A classic way to charm a lady is to set her heart on fire with music. Since most average mortals can't really carry a tune, invite her to a romantic concert and send her tickets with a singing telegram, "What the world needs now is love... sweet love!"

Cerrudo goes classic

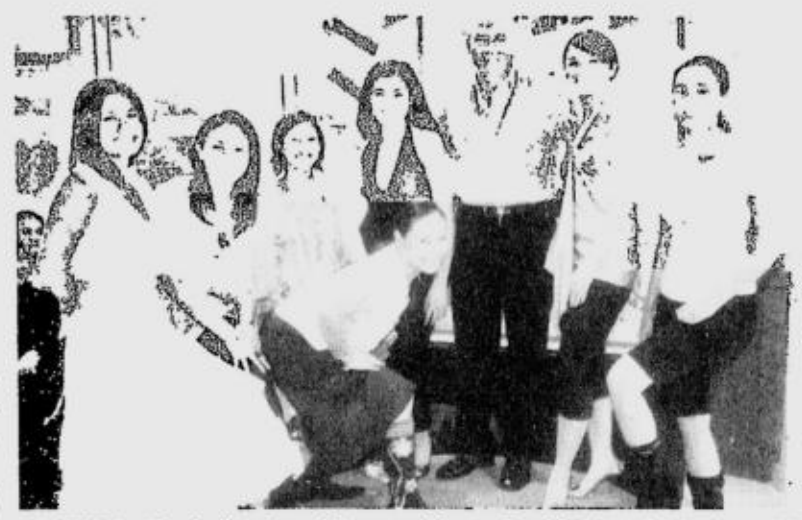
Last Wednesday, I watched the concert of versatile singer **Bimbo Cerrudo** with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra at the Teatrino Theater in Greenhills. It was such a romantic evening perhaps because half the songs are classics from generations ago.

The "Cerrudo: Classico... Classic Ko" concert series is every Wednesday from now until November (for tickets, call **Reena Cerrudo** at 0918-9262297). Not only are you going to have an evening of beautiful music but you will be helping the charitable organization being hosted that evening.

Cerrudo's major sponsor is PLDT and Smart, all for the benefit of the PLDT Foundation. This foundation is the social outreach arm of the Philippines's oldest and largest telecommunications company that empowers Filipinos by strengthening educational institutions and also takes an active role in the country's social and economic progress and communications technology advancement. Lots of good karma there!

E-mail the author at seaprincess @inquirer.com.ph

DYNAMIC singer Bimbo Cerrudo with STC Class '65 Ruby Sioson, Connie Unson, Mila Lacson and Vicky Faicol

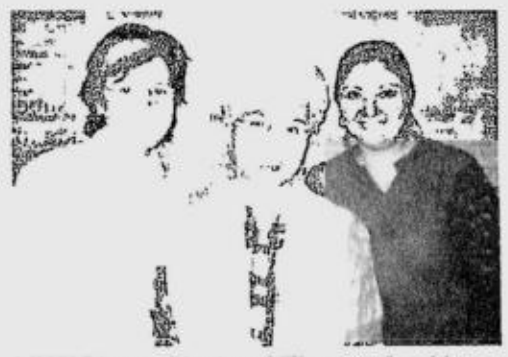


LOVELY Janilyn ladies Anne Magtoto, Happy David, Astrud Crisologo, Xeng Zulueta, Alessandra Panicucci, Tessa Dragon and Sara Black strike a pose with HSBC's Warner Manning.

SENSUAL dancers. Vicky Encarnacion, Dornet Venturanza and Ginajane Grey

MASTERCARD'S Anton Corro and HSBC's SVP for cards Claire Ann Yap

TOP STYLIST and designer Fanny Serrano with Angelo Justin of Basement Salon



MUSIC lovers Monique Villongco, Armida Siguion-Reyna and Reena Cerrudo

SPARKLING Jessica Kienle

TV HOST Angel Jacob

LANCÔME'S Gela Laurel

FLAMENCO beauty Gia Apelo

BIMBO Cerrudo in concert

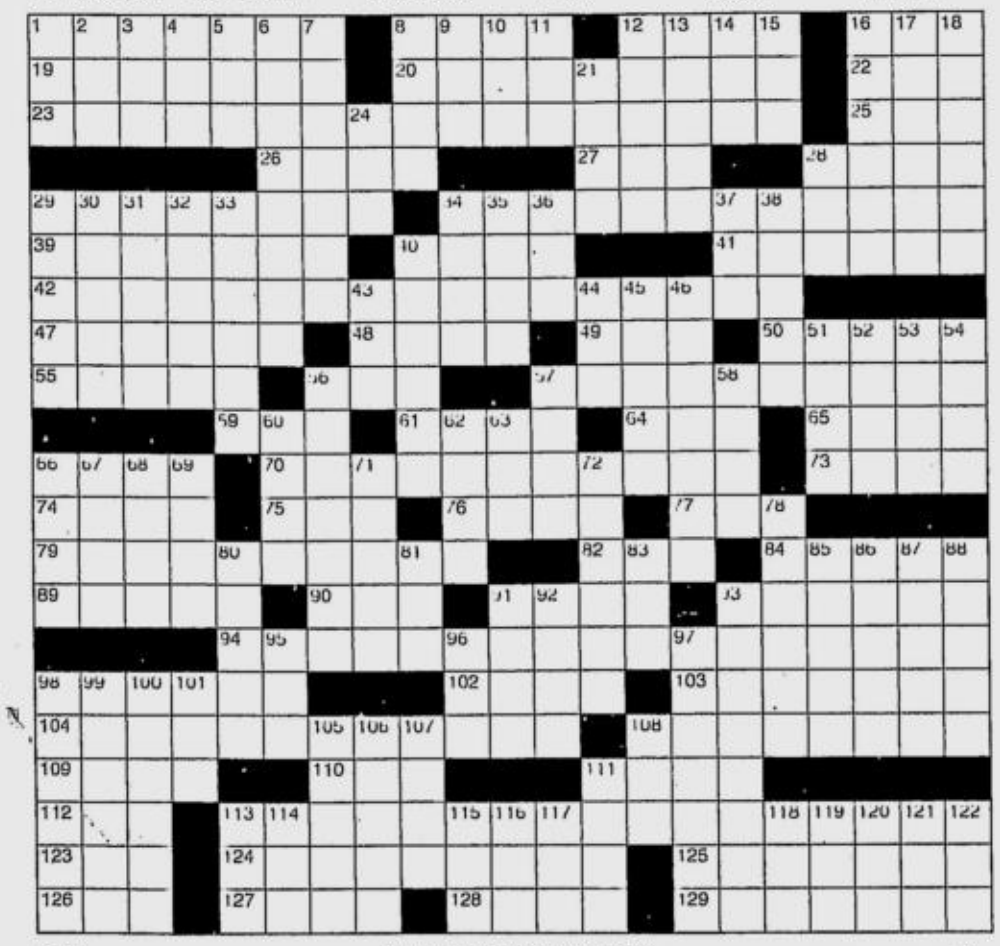
INQUIRER's style icon Leica Carpo

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **THE STEPS**

ACROSS
1 Pudding choice
8 "Yikes!"
12 With 111-Down, one-person shows
16 It's opposite NNW
19 Single-issue magazine
20 Title guy in a Marvelettes #1 hit
22 IRS concern
23 Not fussing over any more details
25 Curved path
26 Old autos
27 Corn spike
28 Suffix with bachelor
29 Leaving footprints on
34 Teen stress source
39 Genteel
40 Shopping mecca
41 Slipped up a bit
42 School in Coral Gables, FL
47 TV show, often
48 Leaf through
49 Bobby of hockey
50 Forest path
55 "Nifty!"
56 Dove sound
57 Labor leader who vanished in 1975
59 "Erie Canal" mule
61 Woodwind instrument
64 Malt beverage
65 Big galoots
66 Joke around
70 TV executive who launched "Saturday Night Live"
73 Nondrinkers
74 Prefix with pilot
75 Funnyman Philips
76 It may go flat
77 Rainy mo.
79 Supernova remnant in Taurus
82 Slime
84 French priests
89 Split nation
90 Before, in verse
91 Take wing
93 Run of luck
94 West Indian republic capital
98 USO unit
102 Penetrating
103 Got back at
104 "I Love Lucy" hubby
108 Track meet officials
109 Cost to play
110 "It's freezing!"
111 On — with (much like)
112 Draw upon
113 They appear at the ends of this puzzle's eight longest answers
123 Satisfied
124 "Just a sec"
125 In a devout way
126 Long-eared beast
127 Ulna, e.g.
128 Novelist Oz
129 Envelope info

DOWN
1 Job for AAA
2 "Give me —!" (Hoosier cheer start)
3 Four-footed friend
4 Suffix with boy
5 "Well well!"
6 Messengers
7 Goes to
8 Zoo birds
9 Mad dog's threat
10 Suitable
11 Play- — (clay brand)
12 Purse piece
13 Astrologer Sydney —
14 Stripling
15 Lennon's love
16 — quo
17 French philosopher Jean-Paul
18 Surpass
21 Palmist, e.g.
24 Steam (up)
28 Telepathy, e.g.
29 Bridge beam
30 Get more "Time"?
31 Flaming
32 ACLU part
33 Poses to propose
34 — visit to
35 North Carolina college town
36 Holiday helper
37 Horror film street
38 "Thus — the Lord"
40 New Zealand's highest peak
43 The same: Prefix
44 French pronoun
45 Cookbook author Rombauer and others
46 As much as can be carried
51 Large crucifix
52 From a distance
53 Uncertain
54 Young lady
56 Cliff scaler
57 Mock
58 Kennel cry
60 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
62 Greek B
63 Osaka sash
66 Jill's friend
67 Continental currency
68 Magi guide
69 Fit — tied
71 Sports site
72 Stay
78 Somewhat
80 British diaper
81 Grazing ground
83 Java holder
85 Wild goose
86 Tan
87 One dining
88 Hits the ice
91 Floored it
92 Nabisco nugget
93 Longtime CBS journalist Eric
95 Atop, in poetry
96 Its cap. is Kiev
97 Indian bean tree
98 Great shock
99 Hoses down
100 Double quartets
101 Banjo kin, briefly
105 Dramatist Henrik
106 Felony
107 Exxon rival
108 Hot-tub hangout
111 See 12-Across
113 Rioting crowd
114 One less than "dos"
115 Doc's org.
116 The Eagle that landed, e.g.
117 — -Cone
118 Doze (off)
119 "We do — part"
120 Taoism founder Lao- —
121 Raised rails
122 Quick method?



#1,268 — Average time of solution: 60 minutes.

answer on page E4

Hung up on a priest

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

For 10 years I had a relationship with a priest. Actually, it started when he was still in the seminary. I thought it would end when he was ordained but, being so in love, I agreed to carry on with the relationship even after he consecrated himself to God and vowed to lead a life of celibacy.

On the 10th year of our relationship, I felt the desire for stability. I longed for an open and free relationship. I began longing for marriage.

Although he had been talking about leaving the priesthood, I started to doubt that he would do it. So when I met another guy, I said goodbye to the priest.

I thought this new guy was the one. We became very close but, after several months, his work required him to move and he slowly drifted away.

Now the priest and I are friends again. For a time he tried to win me back but I was so sure then that I did not want to resume our relationship.

However, now that he has stopped wooing me, I am starting to feel that I want to rekindle our relationship. I feel depressed these days. I do not know what to do.

I do not want to lose him again, but then I know nothing will happen to the relationship unless he leaves the priesthood.

I'm almost 40 and I feel I am almost at the edge... I know I have choices to make...

TIM

Falling in love with a priest is like falling for make-believe, to quote a line from a song.

He may have been having this 10-year relationship with you and all that jazz—but you two have completely different perspectives.

To him, you served as a diversion, a way to fulfill the desires of the flesh. But his vocation is his lifelong goal from which he can't be diverted or thwarted by this weakness of his manhood—no matter how "in love" you two were when you started.

He was taking that road alone in his mind and, though you were there for the ride all these years, he never meant you to be his life.

You didn't set any deadline for him to make good his words to you, and he didn't feel any pressure to change his lifestyle.

To pine for him now and wish that he'd leave the priesthood for you is really wishing for the stars! That might have happened if you're just meeting and falling head over heels in love for the first time. You should have given him an ultimatum then!

You had leverage then, and he could have made up his mind once and for all if you were worth giving up a vocation for.

But you dilly-dallied and everything now is cast in stone (or a hard board, at least). As far as this priest is concerned, it's too late to make changes now as he has become too used to getting his own way.

A decade together is a long time for sure—but his excitement in having an affair with you may have dulled, and you've just become a habit, like taking a shower. He has become too comfortable with you, obviously.

And there's nothing more painful in an affair than indifference.

If you wanted a free and open relationship, you shouldn't have stayed 10 long years on this dead-end road. You were looking for love within a troop of priests or seminarians who were not exactly the best candidates for long-term commitments.

You should have gone to parties or bars, went to friends' offices, attended youth movements or gatherings—anywhere people available for meaningful relationships would have gone.

What were you thinking? Were you trying to see whether your hold on him was stronger than his vocation?

You know you are free to leave him and start life anew. Yes, 40 is that age when you must already know what you want to do with your life. If you think you'll be more miserable without this priest, continue your relationship with him and pray that everything stays the same till kingdom come.

But, if you think there's a whole happy future for you without him, close the door behind you and leave him be without any ifs and buts.

You just have to focus on what's best for you, and the universe will help you get through and over all pains and heartaches.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

ALP DIVISION manager May Precilla joins the pillars of SSC-W during a photo opportunity held before the anniversary program.

St. Scho Westgrove is 5

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE-WESTGROVE (SSC-W) had a special day of thanksgiving to mark its fifth anniversary.

During the event, Benedictine sisters, led by Sr. Catherine Sanchez, also marked the homecoming of two SSC-W pioneers, Sisters Constance Tecson and Regina Lansang.

Sister Catherine, OSB, mother superior, expressed the school's deep gratitude to Ayala Land Premier Inc. for promoting and developing SSC-W into a full-fledged educational institution.

SSC-W tries to respond to the growing cynicism, helplessness and feeling of resignation in the country. Adopting the slogan Revitalizing SSC-W for Effective Witness to Christ, every member works toward the building of God's kingdom, living out the Benedictine motto *Ora et Labora* (prayer and work) with special emphasis on community life and service, simplicity of lifestyle, respect for life, obedience, silence, humility, and prayer.

Cecille Grace S. Guangko, school registrar and admissions officer, said SSC-W believed learning did not only mean mastery of subjects but that it should also foster personal growth.

A mini exhibit traced the school's history. ALP division manager Robert Lao attended its opening.

Call (046)5110421 local 102; (046)5110424 or e-mail pinkces@yahoo.com.

ALP DIVISION manager Robert Lao (center left) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony to open a mini exhibit marking the start of SSC-W's fifth anniversary celebration. Also shown in photo are Sr. M. Regina David, OSB; Gerardo Planas; and Sr. M. Catherine Sanchez, OSB.

Patroness of Ilocos Norte

From page E4

8805108.

Class reunion

Alumni of the Baguio Military Institute will hold a reunion on Sept. 1, 6 p.m., at Club Filipino.

Parish is 55

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Leveriza, Malate, celebrates its 55th anniversary Aug. 15, feast of Our Lady of the Assumption.

Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales will officiate in the Concelebrated Mass at 6 p.m. Fr. Nick Blanquisco is the parish priest. *Hermano mayor* is Cleto Belda and family.

Patroness of Ilocos Norte

THE PEOPLE OF THE BEAUTIFUL province of Ilocos Norte honor La Virgen Milagrosa de Badoc (Miraculous Virgin of Badoc) as their patroness and cause of their joy.

Fr. Danny Laeda, a son of Badoc and the diocese's historian, wrote that the Virgin was canonically crowned by Nueva Segovia Archbishop Juan Sison and Laoag Bishop Edmundo Abaya in 1980.

She was declared patroness and "Cause of our Joy." Why she was brought up in my conversation with Fr. Ian Rabago meant she was giving the signal that I could write about her.

By some miraculous circumstance, I met Fr. Laeda in July when I went home to Laoag for the first anniversary of my brother Pompeyo's death. I was with my friends Myrna de la Cuesta-Campos, Tessie Ablan, Lita Sy-Valero and Letty Miguel-Chiong when I interviewed the priest.

The celebration on Dec. 8 marks the 21st anniversary of the canonical coronation of the Virgin. It is also her feast day.

My mother, Lourdes Darang, told me that pilgrims went to her centuries-old church in Badoc on Sept. 8, her birthday. My mother and her friends always go there on that day.

The devotion of Fr. Rabago, chancellor of the diocese of Laoag, is deep and committed. He says, "All the priests of the diocese are devotees of Our Lady of Badoc. All our successful endeavors are attributed to her because we cling to her before embarking on something."

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Badoc is chosen

Oral history says in 1620 or thereabout, fishermen on the beach of Dadalaquiten that borders Badoc and Sinait saw a large wooden box carried by the tide. Hauling the mysterious box to the shore, they discovered a life-size statue of the Sto. Cristo Milagroso and a smaller, delicately hand-painted image of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Infant Jesus.

The residents of Badoc wanted the Crucified Christ, while those from Sinait chose the Virgin. To their surprise, they couldn't move the statues until those from Badoc took the Virgin.

The people of Badoc were able to bring the Virgin to the church and those from Sinait brought home the Crucified Christ. Both images have been venerated for centuries and miracles have been reported in these two towns.

My grandmother, Lorenza Foronda-Pascua, married Esteban Pascua from Badoc after my mother's father died. I remember visiting her in Badoc, but it was only in 1993 that my former classmates and I discovered the Virgin in her church.

We went up to her altar and whispered prayers to her. She was so close that we could reach out to her and look at her beautiful face.

Those who want *estampitas* of Our Lady of Badoc can write to me c/o P.O. Box 2050, Manila. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. For testimonies of miracles wrought by God through the intercession of the Virgin under this title, you can write to the same address.

Book fair

Spiritual publications are included in the 27th Manila International Book Fair (MIBF) Aug. 30-Sept. 3 at the World Trade Center. At least 15 exhibitors of religious books are participating. For details, call 8900661 or e-mail bookfair primetradeasia.com

Among the participants are Christian Literature Crusade, Claretian Communication Foundation, Lighthouse Bookstore, Logos Publications, OMF Literature, Pauline's, Philippine Bible Society, Sinag-tala Publishers, The Catholic Book Center, and Word and Life Publication.

Pilgrimage

Fr. Paul Marquez, SSP, will lead a pilgrimage to Europe Oct. 21-Nov. 1. The pilgrimage covers, among others, Rome for a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary Major; Lourdes, France for the grotto; Paris for Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church; Barcelona to go up the Apolonian Mountain for Our Lady of Montserrat and Garabandal.

Call Ephesus Travel 5265211 or text 0917-8938267.

Visit

Filipino pilgrims led by Fr. Sanny de Claro will fly to Mexico via Los Angeles to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe in her Basilica in Mexico. Set to leave Oct. 17, the pilgrims will visit other Marian shrines.

The Filipino flag is among flags from different nations displayed at the wall of the main altar of the Guadalupe Basilica. A conveyor behind the altar brings pilgrims up close to the more than 400 years old icon of Our Lady. Call 5211651 or text 0918-9083676.

VIRGEN Milagrosa de Badoc

Caysasay play

Executive producer Ramon Orlina is bringing the play "Ang Mapaghimalang Virgen ng Caysasay" to the Far Eastern University auditorium, on Aug. 16, 10:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Text him at 0917-

PATRONESS/ E3

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

T	A	P	I	O	C	A		E	G	A	D		S	O	L	O		S	S	E
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Antioxidants: Anti-Heart Disease

Did you know that the simple acts of eating, breathing and going out in the sun can damage your health? Everyday, you are under attack from various external forces like air pollutants, alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs, smoked and barbecued food, sunbathing and harmful food chemicals and additives.

Everyday interaction with these factors, combined with normal metabolic processes lead to the oxidation process which creates free radicals. Free radicals are unstable molecules that steal an electron from a stable molecule so it can repair itself. When the "attacked" molecule loses its electron, it becomes a free radical itself, beginning a chain reaction which could prove dangerous to the body.

A single free radical can cause damage to millions of other molecules, preventing the body from functioning properly. These free radicals cause oxidation in the blood. Oxidation can lead to: 1. Diseases like the deterioration of bone, joints and connective tissue 2. Wearing out of organs 3. Decline of the immune system and 4. Hastening of the aging process. Also, the amount of free radicals produced increases with aging. Studies have shown that a large amount of free radicals in the body may significantly shorten one's life span.

Fight Free Radicals with Antioxidants. Studies over the last 20 years show that free radical fighters called antioxidants found in a certain group of nutrients can protect against diseases. Antioxidants are substances or nutrients in food which can prevent or slow the oxidative damage to the body. Antioxidants neutralize free radicals by donating one of their own electrons, ending the electron-"stealing" reaction. The antioxidant nutrients themselves don't become free radicals by donating an electron because they are stable in either form.

Antioxidants are the body's first line of defense against certain illnesses and diseases. They keep free radicals from causing oxidation in the blood, thus neutralizing disease. They also stimulate the immune system's response to help fight existing diseases. Antioxidants are essentially substances that reduce, neutralize, and prevent the damage done to the body by free radicals. When antioxidants minimize and neutralize the effect of free radicals, you live longer and healthier, and look and feel better.

Ensure: Excellent Source of Antioxidants. Most cases of Coronary Heart Disease start with the development of cholesterol in the arteries. The accumulation of plaques leads to the formation of fatty streaks which are highly susceptible to oxidation by free radicals. Antioxidants can prevent these fatty acids in tissue cells from oxidation, averting blocked arteries which can lead to potentially life-threatening heart attacks.

Heart-healthy **Ensure** is fortified with potent antioxidants like Vitamins C and E, Selenium and Beta-Carotene which are scientifically proven to help reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. Vitamin E helps prevent blood clots and the formation of fatty plaques on the walls of the arteries. Vitamin C helps maintain blood vessel flexibility and improve blood circulation.

Ensure also contains all the vitamins and minerals recommended for your daily dietary intake. It has the recommended ratio of protein, fat and carbohydrates for a healthy diet. Ensure is low in cholesterol and sodium and has a heart-healthy fat blend that meets the dietary fat recommended by the American Heart Association and the National Cholesterol Education Program. Use Ensure as a nutritional supplement, a meal replacement, or as a sole source of nutrition when unable to eat solid food.

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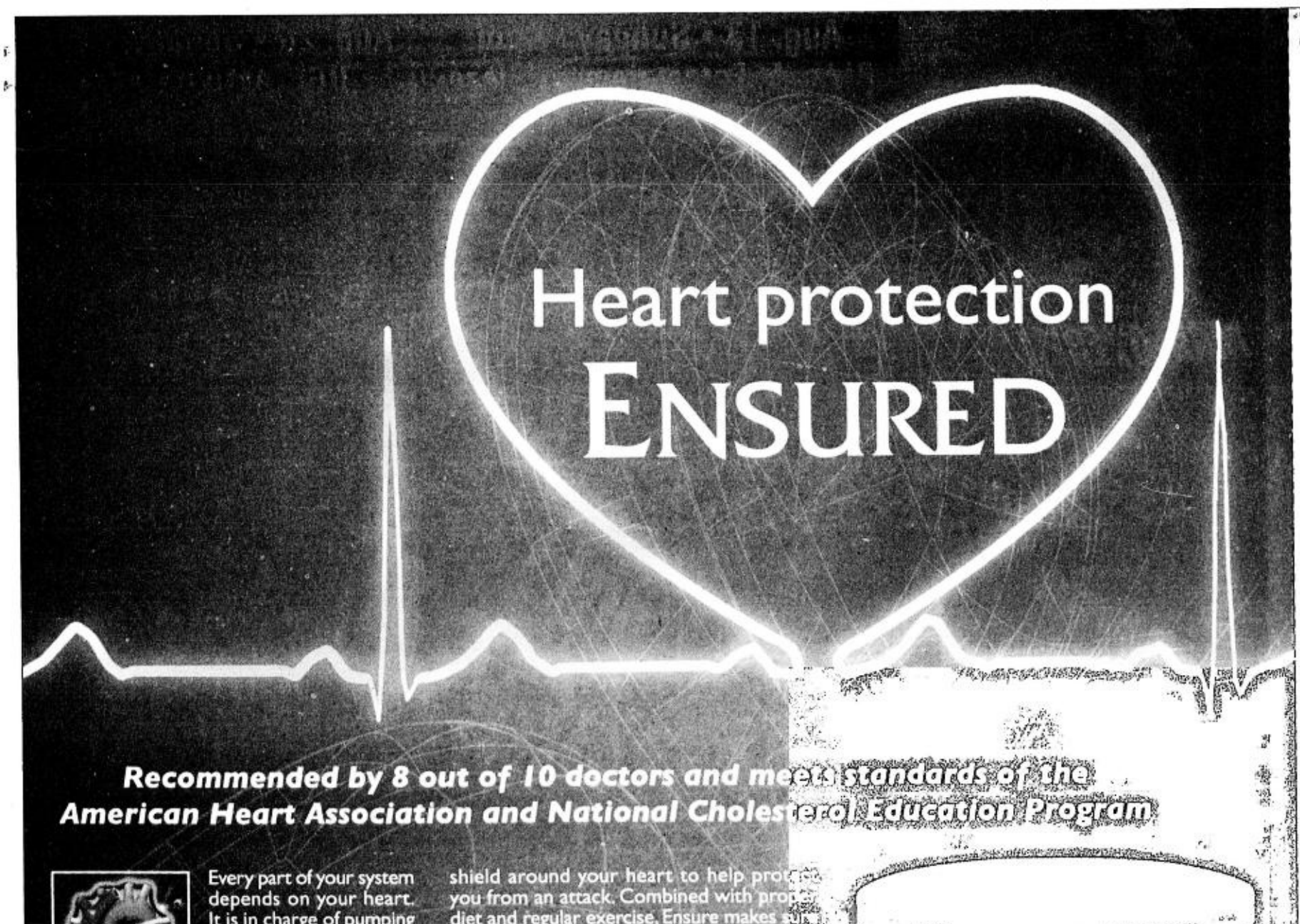
Ensure is available in major drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

References:
http://www.vitaminstuff.com/antioxidants.html
http://www.healthchecksystems.com/antioxid.html
http://www.doctorndtv.com/topics/detailtopics.asp?id=562
http://www.thehealingpine.com/antioxidants.html



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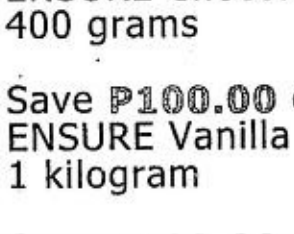

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NTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**
...essage to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart)
...nment@inquirer.com.ph

POPS: "He should have kept his feelings to himself..."

'Martin's always had a big, mouth'

By Nini Valera

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT," POPS FERnandez complained on Friday, referring to her ex-husband Martin Nievera's remarks about her sexy pictures in For Him Magazine (FHM).

"He made those comments based on his feelings [alone]," she explained during a phone call to INQUIRER Entertainment. "In a situation like this, and as my ex-husband, he should have kept his feelings to himself. If you're a real gentleman, if you really care for your ex-partner, you won't say anything that would hurt her."

Pops said Martin's comments hurt. She singled out the one that said, "She didn't have to do that. If some Filipino painter did something of Pops, that's for art's sake. But FHM is not dealing with art... It's suggestive. It's great for kids going on puberty."

"He's always had a big month," Pops retorted. "He doesn't realize he hurts people. Everybody has an opinion. If you put those pictures in a fashion magazine, they would be seen in a different way. He's right; I'm of age. Why I did it is another story."

Pops said Martin could have told her face to face what he really felt.

"He should have asked when we were in the US," Pops pointed out. "When someone sent him an SMS of the FHM cover, talk shows called him and asked for his comments. He asked me why I did it. I said, why not? I approved the pictures and the outfits.

"What he told me then was, 'I trust you *naman*, and I know that you know what you're doing. Why did he tell a different story in 'The Buzz' all of a sudden and, again, during a press con for his new album?

"If he had negative reactions, he should have told that to my face, not this way. He even said it was cool.

"*Sana*, his opinion when he's in front of me, and his opinion when he's being interviewed are

MARTIN'S/ A2-2

An ad, not a canonization

MILAN—IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR ONE OF the best known Roman Catholic cathedrals to be draped with the giant picture of a pop artist who has made millions from hit songs about sex?

Yes, according to the most senior priest at Milan's landmark Duomo who has rebuffed requests to remove a picture of Madonna as part of an advertisement for Swedish fashion chain Hennes & Maritz.

The ad shows the woman behind such hits about unmarried sex as "Like a Virgin" and "Papa Don't Preach" in a white sports jacket zipped to the top, eyes downcast.

But the appearance of the banner coincided with protests over a Madonna show near the Vatican during which the "Queen of Pop" had herself hoisted on a glittery cross wearing a crown of thorns in a mock crucifixion.

"It's diabolical," said Albertina Santos, 53, the wife of an evangelical pastor from Verona, Italy. The Duomo's Monsignor Luigi Manganini told Italy's Ansa news agency that the ad—part of money-raising efforts to restore the cathedral—can stay and was appropriate. "It's just an ad, certainly not a canonization," Manganini said.

Vittorio Sgarbi, head of culture for Milan's city council, pointed out: "The other parts of the building are full of devils and demons. An infernal Madonna shouldn't hurt us too badly." *Ian Simpson, Reuters*

Movie-TV board suspends Brother Eli's 'Dating Daan'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW and Classification Board (MTRCB) has issued a preventive suspension order and notice of hearing against Ang Dating Daan Productions Inc., producer of the TV shows "Ang Dating Daan" and "Itanong Mo Kay Soriano," aired on UNTV 37.

The letter, dated Aug. 7, declared that the two shows and the production company's other "programs of similar nature or format" were suspended for 20 days from receipt of the order.

Other respondents are Eliseo "Brother Eli" Soriano, host and presiding minister of Church of God International Inc., and Progressive Broadcasting Corp., which operates UNTV 37.

The case stemmed from the long-standing feud between Soriano and the Iglesia ni Kristo.

According to the memo, Soriano criticized the INK, MTRCB and Arroyo government on the two programs on July 30.

In a phone interview, Jay Sonza, station manager of UNTV 37, told INQUIRER Entertainment, "MTRCB has no authority to suspend broadcast programs. [It] is not a judicial or a quasi-judicial body."

Sonza said the only reason the show was off the air was, "the show's producer, a blocktimer, respects the MTRCB."

Board chair Marissa Laguardia told INQUIRER that, contrary to Sonza's opinion, "the MTRCB is a quasi-judicial body."

Laguardia quoted the memo, which stated: "[The] utterances of Soriano... constitute a violation of Section 3, par. (c), v and vii of Presidential Decree No. 1986 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations."

The memo required the respondents to appear before the board's adjudication committee on Aug. 22.

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2 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

4 STORMBREAKER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 LADY IN THE WATER
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

7 THE BREAK-UP
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

9 JUST MY LUCK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE ANT BULLY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA

1 CLICK
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

5 SUKOB
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
11:45 1:50 3:55 6:00 8:00 10:00

6 THE ANT BULLY
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

4 STORMBREAKER
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

7 MIAMI VICE
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

METRO EAST

1 THE BREAK-UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

2 THE ANT BULLY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

6 JUST MY LUCK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 SUKOB
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7 CLICK
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4 MIAMI VICE
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8 STORMBREAKER
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE

3 WOLF CREEK
4 SUKOB

CITISQUARE MALABON / PIONEER

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER

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Kindly answer all questions completely.
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2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie
_ O L _ N F _ R _ L L
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
R _ C A _ D _ I _ R S
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
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1 SUKOB
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3 CLICK
4 CHAOS

DASMARINAS / ANGELES

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 THE ANT BULLY
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WILD ORCHID 2
4 SUKOB

IMUS / STARMILLS

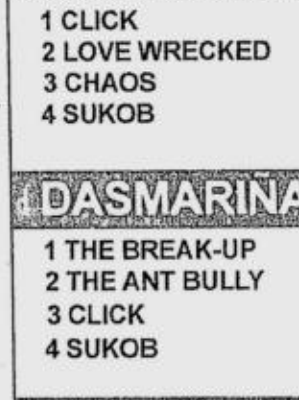
1 WOLF CREEK
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

1 TAMARA
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 WOLF CREEK
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

BACOLOD / ILOILO

1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 WOLF CREEK
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
6 WILD ORCHID 2

1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 LADY IN THE WATER



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1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 ANT BULLY
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 THE BREAK-UP
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 UMAARAW, UMUULAN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 STORMBREAKER
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MIAMI VICE
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 LADY IN THE WATER
9 ANT BULLY
10 ANT BULLY
11 THE BREAK-UP
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 CLICK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MIAMI VICE
8 ANT BULLY
9 SUKOB
10 WHITE LADY
11 JUST MY LUCK
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP
JUST MY LUCK
8 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
9 ANT BULLY
10 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MIAMI VICE
4 ANT BULLY
5 SUKOB
6 SUKOB

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
THE BLOCK
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 FIERCE PEOPLE
5 SUKOB
6 MIAMI VICE
7 STORMBREAKER
8 CLICK
9 FIERCE PEOPLE
10 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
11 ANT BULLY
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 ANT BULLY
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 THE BREAK-UP
9 JUST MY LUCK
10 WHITE LADY
11 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12 SUKOB

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

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2 STORMBREAKER
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2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 LOVEWRECKED

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 TAMARA
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 STORMBREAKER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 SUKOB
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
8 ANT BULLY

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 SUKOB

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 CHAOS
3 REINCARNATION
4 THE NUN

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 JUST MY LUCK

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 ANT BULLY
4 TAMARA
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 SUKOB

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 SUKOB
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 BANDIDAS
4 TAMARA

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 TAMARA
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 CLICK
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 EVIL DEAD
7 SUKOB
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 CLICK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
7 RESERVED
8 SUPERMAN RETURNS

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 CLICK
2 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEA
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 CLICK

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

F2

'Miami

AT FIRST, "MIAMI VICE" (
a typical big-bucks, big-ba
action blockbuster, high
gimmicks and explosions
fresh and involving storyte

After a while, however, th
Jamie Foxx starrer rises abo
format, and draws viewer
about two undercover agen
sights on putting top internat
behind bars.

They do this by audacious
selves off as tough and cool
can be relied on to effect
ments into the United States
in the world.

They're so good at selling
the drug lords are convince
pay them millions of dollars f

To really get the goods o
rell's character even gets per
with one of the drug lo
ates—and main squeeze.

The cool and crafty Asian
his hirsute, macho charm, a
fast, furtive affair—until they
falling in love with each othe

Both of them know how
forbidden romance is, but
tempt the fates of passion an

'Martin'

one and the same."

Pops claimed that she nev
comments about Martin's s
even when she was badgere
entertainment press.

"I usually say I can't answer
not my business," said Pops. "
press con, a lot of questi
thrown around. He doesn't
answer all of them. I don't an
the questions about him."

Game plans

Pops questioned Martin's m
shooting his mouth off about t
azine pictures.

"We have different game
question his, but I keep it to
she said.

Posing in sexy clothes, sa
was a means of reinventing he
way Madonna has done
times to defy age.

"Sometimes, you have t
noise," she said. "This is the
I've made this whole year. Mo
noise came from him. This is
getting more jobs."

She continued: "He shoul
stand [that] I'm now a single
mother. This is my work. In o
we have to be different all th
don't find anything wrong
pictures.

"As single mom, it's very
make a living for what my ki
need. I don't ask him to tak
everything.

Is that wrong?

"Is that wrong... taking ca
kids, and for as long as the
stand?"

Pops insisted that her sons-
19, and Ram, 16—by Martin
find anything wrong with the
torial.

"I know... I live with the
pointed out. "I work hard.
supports me. It's not a crim
what is best for my kids. The
stand... there's nothing to be a
of. They're mature. Kids nowa
different. Maybe, it's Mart
hasn't grown up. But it doesn't
he's my ex."

Pops would have wanted h
be around to help her raise th
ly.

"He's far away when he
here and help out a little bit m
he's there and he's even going
another child."

Why she cried

Martin and his current g
Katrina Ojeda are expecting
Pops admitted that she cried w
heard.

"But... only because I tho
kids didn't know," she sa
promised the kids that he
have another child."

Pops said she was glad
could talk candidly about Katr
"For the longest time," she sa
ple didn't think she actually e
hope the blame doesn't come
me."

* * *

On having Pops pose for t
of FHM, the magazine's edito
Allan Madrilejos said: "We've
wanted her. When she finally
we made sure she'd be at h
comfortable and confident du
shoot. We respected her and
its, treating her like the queen
always been to us and her fan

Publisher Lisa Gokongw
equally elated: "Pops looks
We are about the same age
looks 10 years younger. I th
she showed an independenc
and self confidence, which
by posing for FHM. She doe
to prove anything. My God, sh
Fernandez. She is iconic."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vice' rises above slam-bang format

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

)MES OFF AS
ıg Hollywood
n technology,
but low on
ling.

Colin Farrell-
e its slam-bang
into its story
who set their
onal drug lords

passing them-
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uge drug ship-
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hemselves that
, and agree to
r their services.
their prey, Far-
nally involved
ls' top associ-

beauty falls for
d it looks like a
ind themselves

langerous their
hey decide to
retribution.

Meanwhile, Foxx's character is having to deal with his own incipient crisis. To hedge their bets and force the middlemen to toe the line, one of the drug lords kidnaps his wife and hold her hostage until the drug lord gets what he wants—which is much more than the original deal's terms posited.

In a scarifying "penultimate finale" sequence, the undercover agents have to rescue the hostage from a trailer camp and take her out alive despite the presence of armed captors—and a bomb attached to her body.

Other action blockbusters stage this sort of scene in a big, showy manner, but this production opts to play it small, stealthy and personal—and ends up moving the now fully involved viewer all the more.

As for the movie's "official" finale, it reverts to the "big" action mode, but that's okay, because the film has already gotten its personal licks in.

And the story ends with a bittersweet coda, as Farrell and his *verboten* inamorata have to confront the final decision they must make.

Will they opt to live and love together, *contra mundum*? Or, does even deeply passionate and danger-risking love have its practical limits, especially when viewed in the harsh light of the morning after?

It's inveigling to see this bittersweet question asked and answered in "just" a crime-action caper, and the viewer is properly appreciative.

As for the film's leads, they both benefit from their involvement in this production.

Foxx sustains his reputation as a subtle actor who can play even the most potentially melodramatic scenes with rigorous restraint.

But it is Farrell who reaps the biggest rewards from "Miami Vice," because it creates a new screen persona for him that is so compelling that we should be seeing more of it in forthcoming productions.

Farrell's undercover agent here comes across like a young **Mel Gibson**—dark, intense, seething, the stuff of which action stardom is made.

We trust, however, that this won't keep him from continuing to make other, less commercial kinds of movies, to give full flail to his expanding range of thespic skills.

FEEDBACK

From ABS-CBN, regarding the story "ABC 5 exec confirms talent piracy" (Entertainment, Aug. 7):

ABS-CBN denies that it is "pirating" any "Philippine Idol" contestant to join "Pinoy Dream Academy." The network has for years successfully staged talent searches without poaching contestants from other competitions. It is a possibility however that there are hopefuls who, in pursuit of their dream of becoming the next singing sensation, would take part in as many auditions as they can. If the aspiring singer auditions for two or more programs, then it is solely the contestant's choice which competition he/she will finally join. And, the Kapamilya network will fully respect the participant's choice.

s always had . . .

From page F1

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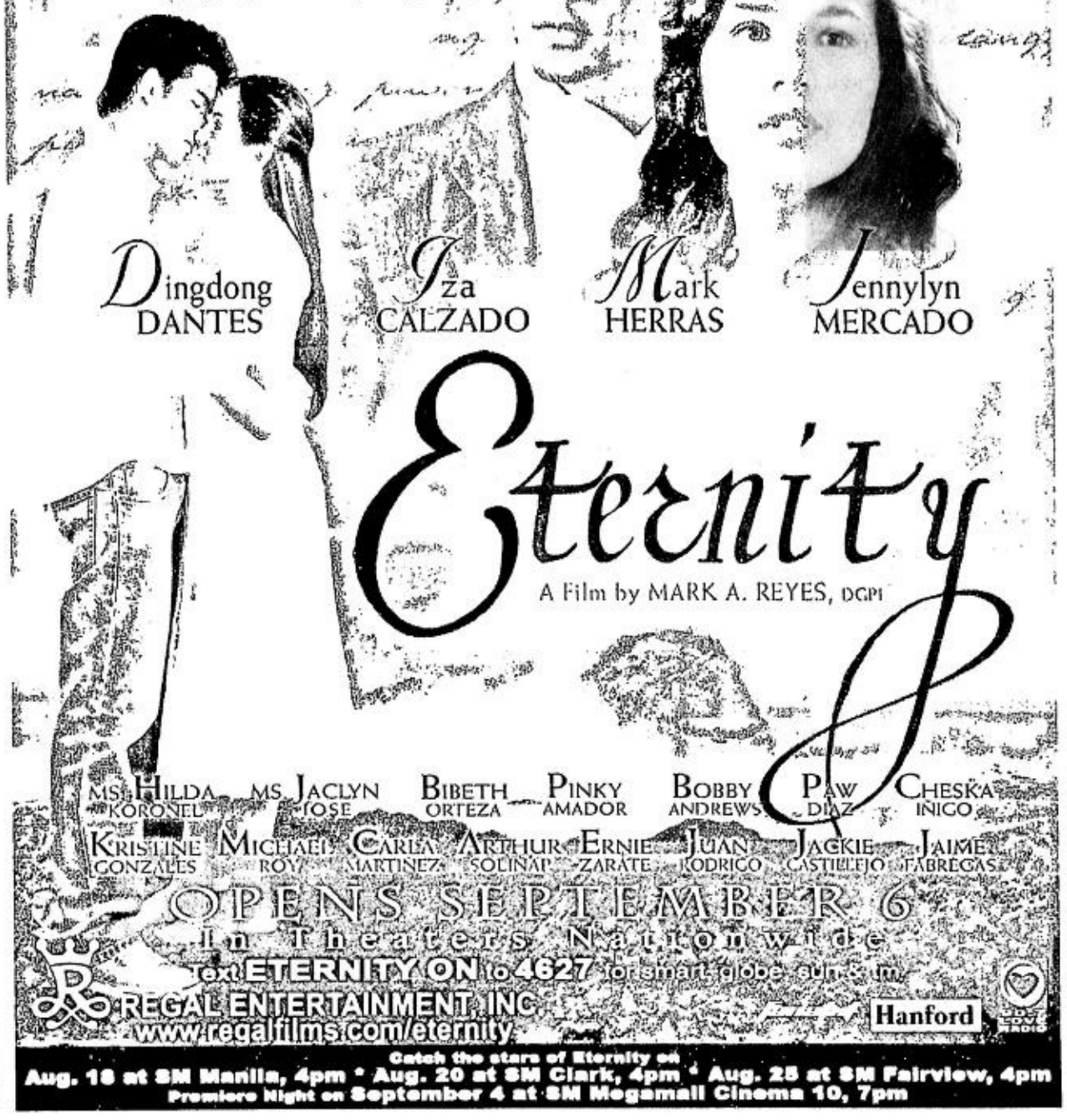

glorietta · Greenbelt · Alabang Town Center · Ayala Center Cebu · Market! Market! · Ayala Malls

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777.

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MIAMI VICE	2 CLICK	3 STORMBREAKER	4 SUKOB			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SUKOB	2 STORMBREAKER	3 THX MIAMI VICE 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS				
	4 FIERCE PEOPLE	5 ANT BULLY	6 CLICK	7 JUST MY LUCK			
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SUKOB		2 CLICK				
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX CLICK 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX THE ANT BULLY 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 GUARANTEED SEATS				
	3 SUKOB 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		4 FIERCE PEOPLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		5 MIAMI VICE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CLICK		2 MIAMI VICE				
	3 SUKOB		4 ANT BULLY		5 STORMBREAKER		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CLICK	2 JUST MY LUCK	3 THE BREAK-UP	4 WOLF CREEK			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 CLICK		2 STORMBREAKER				
	3 ANT BULLY		4 SUKOB		5 MIAMI VICE		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
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Greenbelt — Jazz Nights at GB 2
August 16, 23 & 30, 2006

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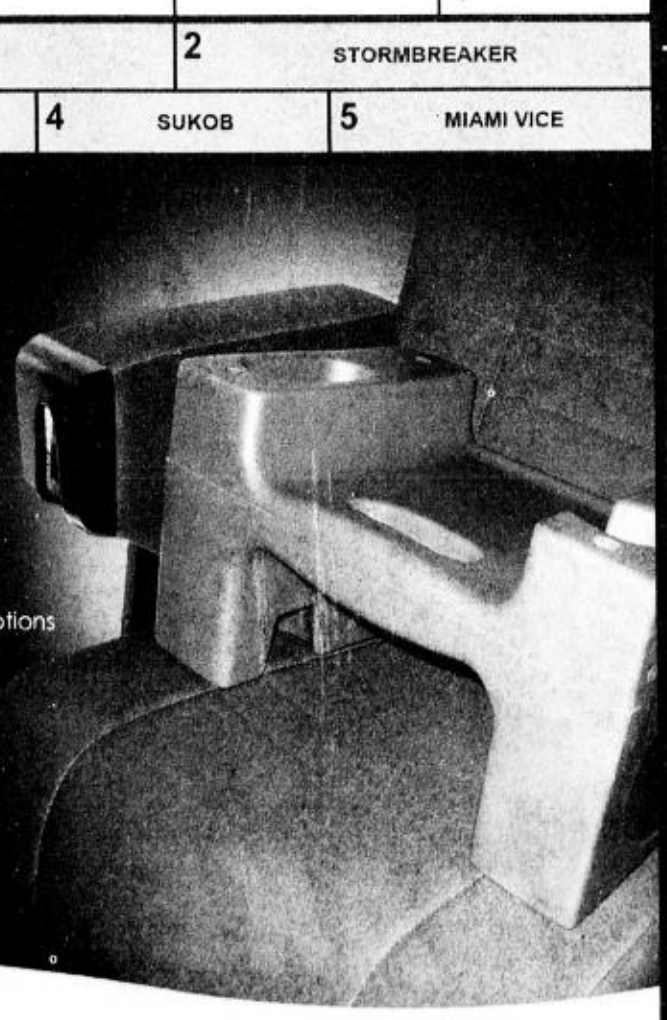
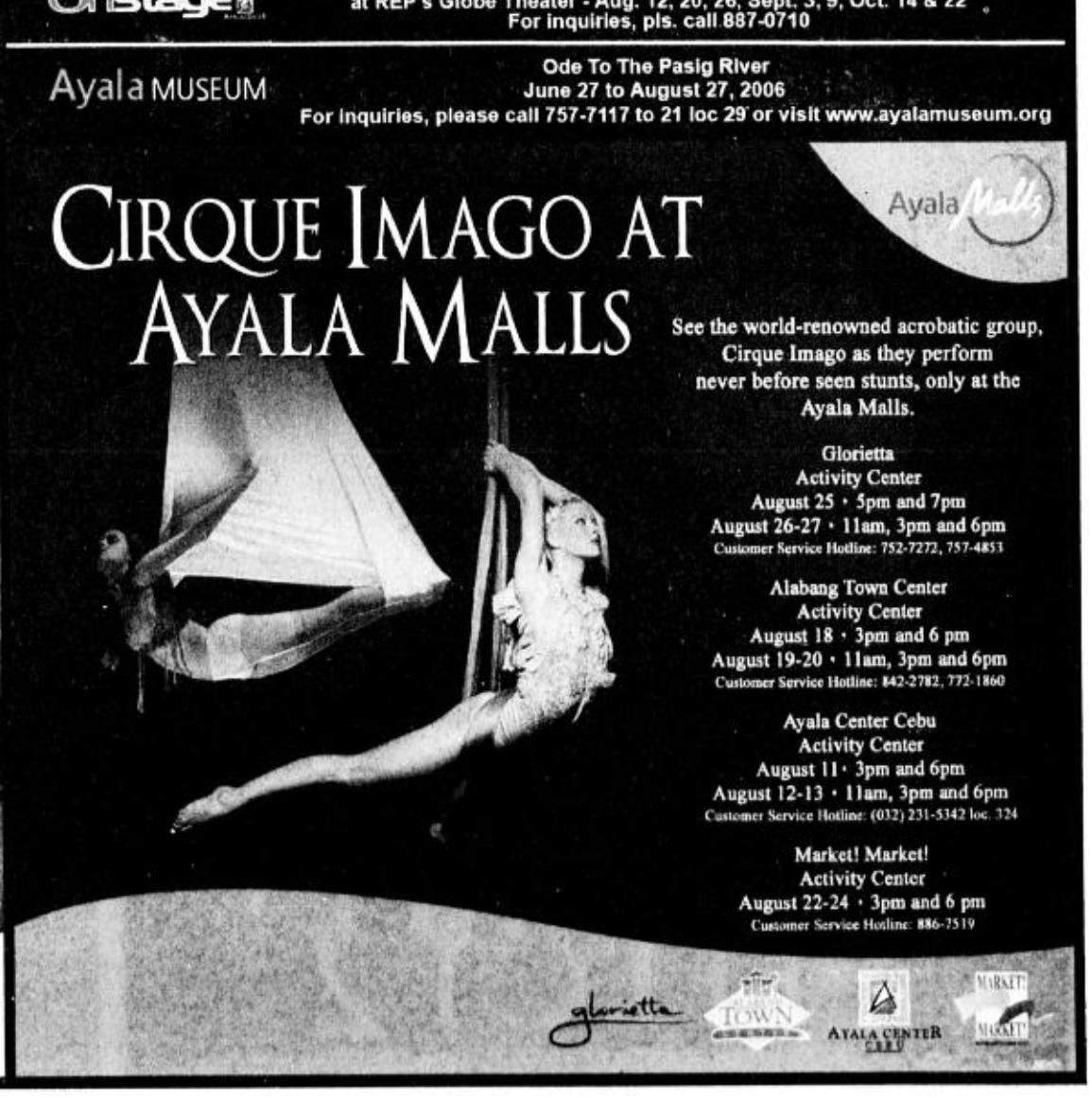
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org





"BEST COPY AVAILABLE"

DID YOU KNOW...

Los Angeles—Famed US actor and comic Robin Williams has checked into an alcohol recovery program, his publicist said Wednesday.

"After 20 years of sobriety, Robin Williams found himself drinking again and has decided to take proactive measures to deal with this for his own well-being and the well-being of his family," his publicist Mara Buxbaum said in a statement.

Williams, 55, won a best supporting actor Oscar for "Good Will Hunting" in 1998 and shone in films like "Dead Poets Society" and "Good Morning, Vietnam" and the 1970s and '80s TV sitcom "Mork and Mindy." *AFP*

More 'Desperate' tales from Marc and Marcia

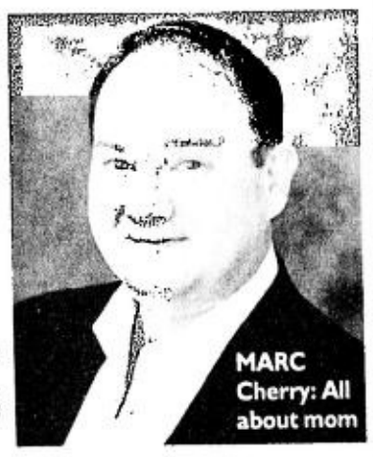
MARCIA Cross: "I don't really like looking at Barbara Walters."

LOS ANGELES—WE CONTINue with more "Desperate Housewives" tales from one of the show's stars, Marcia Cross, and the show's creator/co-writer/producer, Marc Cherry.

Marc is not ashamed to admit that he based Marcia's flame-haired character, the perfectionist Bree Van De Kamp, on his own mother Martha. And Martha does not mind being mentioned openly as the inspiration for the Stepford wife in the popular dramedy.

When I asked Marcia in our interview if she had discussed her character with Martha, the fair-skinned actress answered, "I mostly just observe her. I'm always a bit intimidated. You have to meet her."

Marc is a self-described "conservative gay Republican" while Marcia is a liberal who had to deny rumors last year that she was a lesbian. The scuttlebutt died down when The Juilliard School-trained actress, 44, married Tom Mahoney, 48, a stockbroker, last June. The prettiest of the "*desperadas*," Marcia spoke softly and with a seemingly conspiratorial smile that made us feel like every word she said was a secret she was sharing.



MARC Cherry: All about mom

Marc, on the other hand, hands clasped on the hotel table, looked like a school boy. Make that a boy with hyperactive imagination who loves to talk.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Not just for me, but for all of Tom's family who had a reunion and then for my girl friends, including my childhood ones, who all got together. It had a lot to do with bonding. At the end of the night, there were gardenias going all the way up to our suite and petals going out to the balcony. It was crazy! I just kept saying to him, "I feel so guilty! Like my Catholic guilt is just spilling (laughter)!" It was insane! I felt so spoiled.

MARCIA CROSS

Was your wedding everything ever imagined?

It was so ridiculously beyond what I could ever have. I never grew up imagining my wedding. I wanted to be an actress. That's all I cared about. The wedding was so beautiful and meaningful. I wasn't particularly devastated. Maybe at a different time of my life I would've been. It just wasn't where all my hopes and dreams were. I also think that you always just have to do your work and that one day you're hot, the next day you're cold. That's just life.

Just in case you get pregnant, would that be okay in the third season?

Life comes first. Marc Cherry is a genius so I think it would all work out. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

Did anyone from the show give you any advice before the wedding?

We had a jar on the set that you put your advice in. Felicity (Huffman) wrote, "Marry Bill (Felicity's actor-husband) Macy (laughter)."

The show and the cast were shut out of the nominations in the Emmy Awards this year. What was your reaction?

Gosh. I was surprised. But to be truthful, I thought, "Well, maybe this is a great thing." Because it was clean across the boards. Everybody was starting together to have a great year. It wasn't like it was just one person (who was shut out). The message probably was, "Okay, let's go back to work. Let's love our jobs and do what we do and get on with it." I was on my honeymoon so

Who are you closest to in the cast?

I'm pretty close to Eva (Longoria) and Felicity.

Before Tom came, have you given up on the thought of marriage?

Yes, I had. I was completely hopeless. I had looked into adoption. I felt like I had made my peace with it. I was very sad about it. But I really never, ever thought I would meet anybody.

Are you going to adopt?

I don't know what we're going to do, but we'll do something. Soon, I hope.

Marc told us that he wants to take all of your characters to dark places.

I lived on the dark side for a long time, actually. This is really the first time in my life for a while that I've been very happy. So the dark places are not new to me. I've always played dark and complicated characters. I've never been the happy ingénue.

Marc said he based your character on his mother, Martha. What is she like?

She is very powerful. She has a very dry sense of humor. I remember introducing my fiancé to her. She gave him a "thumbs up." I was like, "Whew, he must be okay." Because she's definitely tough. She instilled Mark with this incredible confidence. But the key for me about what he tells me about her is that she thinks there's no reason ever to be unpleasant. That informs me a lot about my character. Whenever I start to get a little crabby, I'd be like, "No, no, no, you can feel that, but you mustn't show that." So there's always that dichotomy of always having a pleasant exterior.

What can we expect from Bree this season?

You're going to see a Bree who is feeling like 20 again, hopeful, reborn and feminine and wanting to have that dream again. She got back her femininity and her softness is coming out. With Rex (her character's husband),

MORE / G2

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Calling McDonald's:

Customers rave about 8-McDo

McDonald's really delivers the goods when it comes to 8-McDo, the Golden Arches' speedy 24-hour delivery Service. Busy people like third year medical student Ann Encarnacion and fourth year Med Tech students Paulo Catindig and Djeanne Rivere from the University of Sto. Tomas know this for a fact.

But despite their hectic daily routine, these dorm mates manage to eat their favorite McDonald's products everyday, even twice a day without having to worry about missing school work.

"We've always had McDonald's delivered to our dorm. We usually call 8-McDo after midnight so we'll have something to eat while we're studying," said Djeanne.

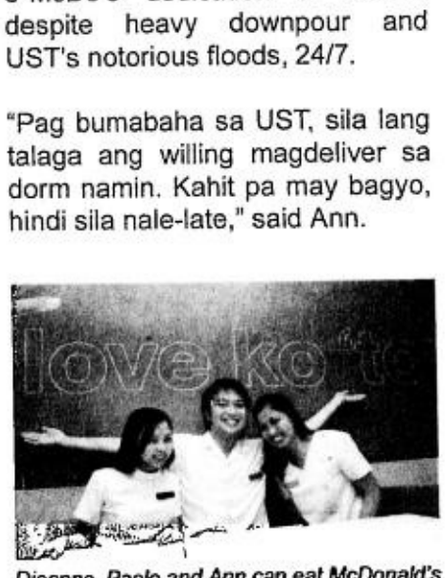
"Yeah, it boosts our energy and keeps us awake. Masarap at mas nakakagana kung may kinakain kang McDo habang nag-aaral," Paolo added.

They are also impressed with 8-McDo's dedication to deliver despite heavy downpour and UST's notorious floods, 24/7.

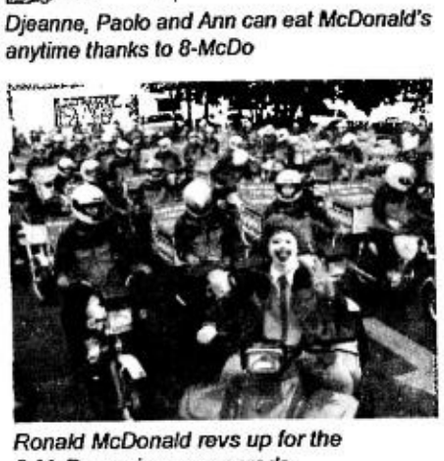
"Pag bumabaha sa UST, sila lang talaga ang willing magdeliver sa dorm namin. Kahit pa may bagyo, hindi sila nale-late," said Ann.

8-McDo celebrates four years of excellent food delivery service with McDonald's President Kenneth Yang (5th from left, standing) and the rest of the team behind its staggering success.

8-McDo's delivery boy is always a welcome sight for Dianne and her kids



Djeanne, Paolo and Ann can eat McDonald's anytime thanks to 8-McDo



Ronald McDonald revs up for the 8-McDo anniversary parade.

8-McDo riders ruled the streets of Manila on their 4th anniversary.

Ms. Dianne Gonzales and her sons, 12 year-old Bogie, 7 year-old, Weego and 6 year-old Gian are also big fans of 8-McDo.

"Usually when you arrive from work, you can expect your kids to greet you and kiss you. Whereas with my kids, it's totally different. When they open the door and see me, they go, 'Mommy McDonald's,'" said Dianne. "In fact, what they do is they dial the number already. Then they'd say 'Mommy, I dialed 8-McDo na. C'mon, order na,'" she added.

Dianne also raves about 8-McDo's service. "On a rate of 1-10, I think 8-McDo deserves a ten because we don't have any bad experiences with it. Otherwise we won't be ordering from them. And the service guys are so nice."

McDonald's President Mr. Kenneth Yang expresses pride over 8-McDo's accomplishments

Delivering cold desserts and French Fries are possible with 8-McDo's special delivery boxes

24 hours
FOR METRO MANILA ONLY

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• Cebu 348-6236 • Davao 228-6236 • Laguna 808-6236
• Tarlac 628-6236 • For Globe and Sun Cellular subscribers, dial 02 8-6236
• For SMART, Addict Mobile, and Talk 'N Text subscribers, dial 8-6236
Or call your local McDonald's delivery number.
Metro Manila residents may also order on-line through www.8mcdo.com

Magpa-deliver na!

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

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1 (10:00) CLICK
2 (12:00) STORMBREAKER
3 (2:00) SUKOB
4 (4:00) MIAMI VICE

PREMIERE
(6:00) ANT BULLY

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

stARmall EDSA - SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SUKOB
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLICK
5 STORMBREAKER

metropolis star Cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604288, 8433994
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-3271
SUKOB
CHAOS
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (9:00) STORMBREAKER
2 (11:00) MIAMI VICE
3 (1:00) ANT BULLY
4 (3:00) CLICK
5 (5:00) (DOLBY) R. V.
6 (7:00) PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
7 (9:00) (DOLBY) SUKOB
8 (11:00) JUST MY LUCK
9 (1:00) THE BREAK UP
10 (3:00) SUKOB

Blue Wave MANDALUYONG
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SUKOB
2 (DOLBY) STORMBREAKER
3 (DOLBY) CLICK
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (10:30) MIAMI VICE
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER
5 WILD ORCHID-2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 TAMARA
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SUKOB
2 STORMBREAKER
3 ANT BULLY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (10:00 AM) CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 (05:15 PM) JUST MY LUCK
4 BANDIDAS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBEAN-2
2 LAKE HOUSE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (10:00) STORMBREAKER
2 (12:00) CLICK
3 (02:00) MIAMI VICE
4 (04:00) SUKOB

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3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUSE-3

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (10:00) CHAOS
2 ISLA ASUL
3 NENA INOSENTE
4 (04:15) HOUSE OF FURY

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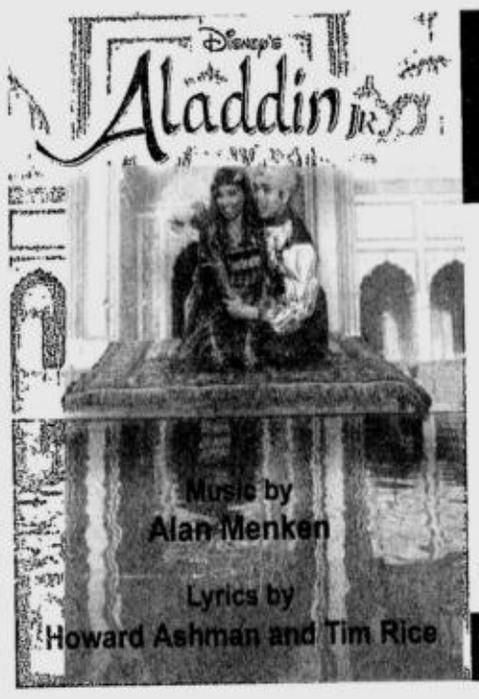

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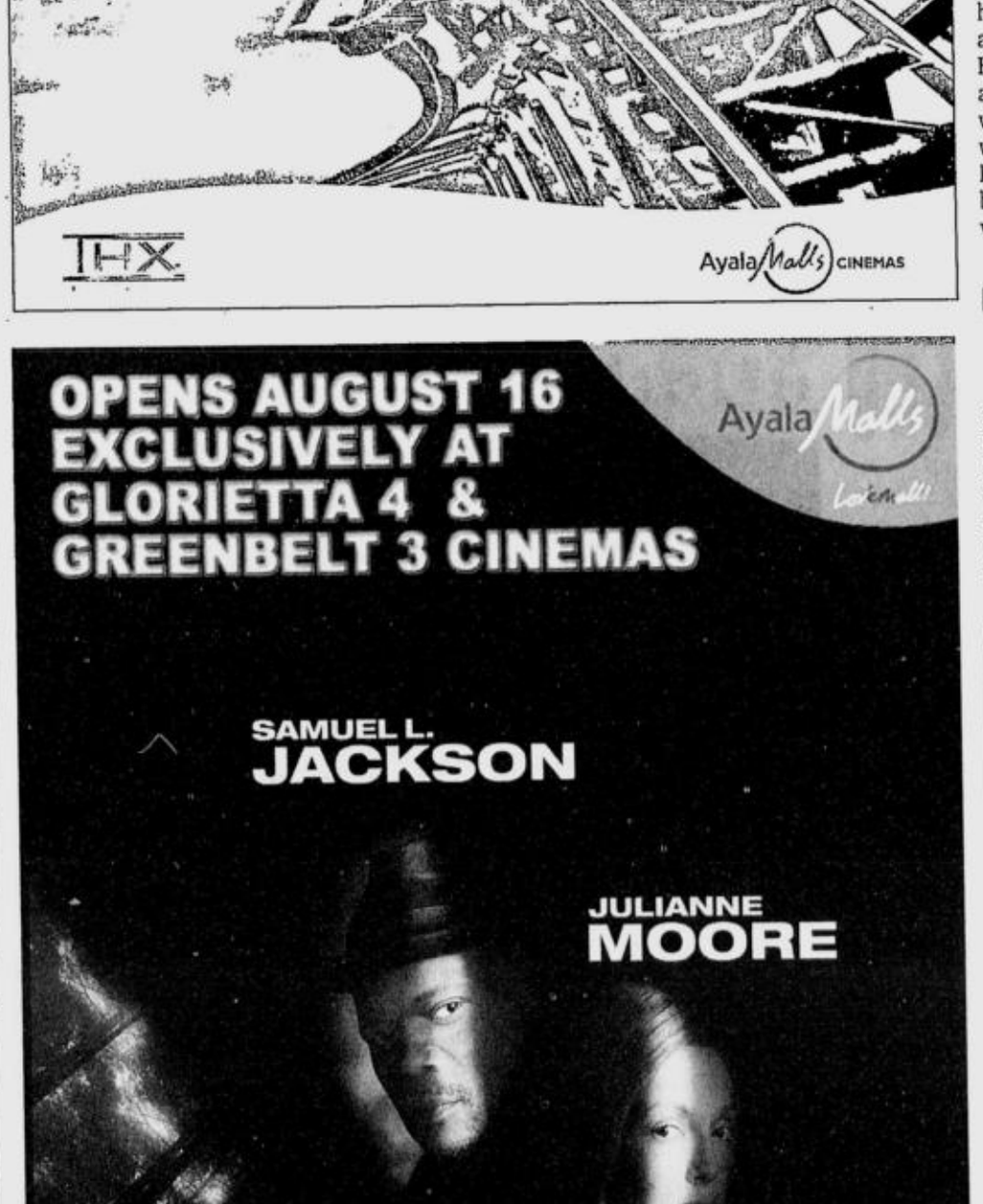

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THE TRUTH IS HIDING WHERE NO ONE DARES TO LOOK.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
Ayala Malls CINEMAS gloriette GREENBELT

More 'Desperate'

From page G-1

they were at a deep, tough place in their marriage. Now, she has met this new man and it's like fresh hope. He's tall, dark, handsome and he likes to clean (laughter). You'll see.

Oprah Winfrey recently had to clarify (in O, The Oprah Magazine) that she is not a lesbian. You were in a similar situation last year.

Right.

Does it surprise you when even Oprah was questioned?

Well, those rumors about Oprah and Gayle (King, her best friend and O magazine editor) had been going on for a while. We have a bizarre society that way (about all the attention on one's sexuality).

What was it like when you were asked on Barbara Walters' "The View" about rumors that you are a lesbian?

Honestly? I was not happy about it. I handled it very well at that time. My parents were in town. My father, who's 80-something, and my mother were in the front row of the audience (in the TV studio). When I got backstage, Barbara Walters came up to me and said, "You know, I have to ask you about this." And I said, "Why do you have to ask me about this?" "Well, it's news." I was like, "It's news?" At which point my publicist came in and we sorted out how to deal with it. And then, thank God—and I don't think this is always the case—my mouth and my thoughts really came together and I felt like I spoke well at the time.

But I have to tell you that I am not a huge Barbara Walters fan (laughter). That ended that for me. My dad was in the front row going like this (gestures), "What did they say? Are you a what?" I just thought about Barbara, "You didn't have to ask me that question. That was 'tabloid-y' of you." I felt like really used. So now I don't really like looking at Barbara Walters.

It kind of regurgitates the rumor and spreads it even further. So it doesn't matter what you say…

It's salacious.

And people will continue talking about it.

I personally don't care if people think I'm gay. It was just that you really felt part of this gossip ratings mill and not regarded as a human at all. My parents were like, "What was that about?"

How did you deal with Tom?

I got on the phone, and I'm like, "Hi, Honey. How are you?" I really didn't want to say anything. And then I go, "Well, I'll talk to you later." Because he's in the financial world and his phone was ringing off the hook. And he went, "I saw it." His boss called him in and said, "I think you should know blah blah blah." He said to his boss, "I know everything I need to know about her." Which was really great (laughter). Then we talked about it and he was fantastic, obviously. I was really proud of myself because I didn't say (to Barbara), "As a matter of fact, you're wrong. I have a boyfriend." I was not going to use my private life. I was really happy about that.

MARC CHERRY

How many scripts do you actually write?

Every script is group written. I took all of the Bree story lines this past season. Bree is based on my mother so I like to write for that character. I have a personally affinity for her. But we all kind of get together and write the scripts. It's such a complicated show that no writer could churn out quickly one episode by himself. We do all the rewrites together. I usually have a hand in every single page that you see on screen. If it's not

WHO'S the fairest from Wiste and Teri Hatcher

writing it myself, it's giving notes gesting a joke here or there, d that. So it's hard to say. I've writt gle episode. But certainly not stretch of the imagination.

What do you think draws the ences to this show?

Women all over the world und what it means to be driven cra your husband or your personal li ty" that is the lynchpin of "Desper

How close is Bree to your moth

Well, first of all, I want to mak slept with my mother's boyfriend tant to state right at the start. T very much my mother. Bree is a erything to be pleasant, who has lady, and comports herself in a ce my mom. My mother comes fron lahoma and tries for some semb ing.

One of the things I decided e more obstacles I could throw a would get, the more dramatic it would start to understand Bre took Bree from being perceived kind of a cold, Martha Stewart c woman whom viewers really roo of the most popular characters cause people feel for her trying and then they see the obstacles

Did Teri Hatcher let you know that she was going to make a revelation of what happened in her childhood (she bared that she was sexually abused by an uncle)?

Teri said to us that she was going to make a very big statement about her personal life. And that it was going to be released the next day. So when it came out, a couple of people actually figured already what they thought it might be just from the oblique reference. She made sure we all knew it was coming. I think that was her way of saying, this is going to be coming and I prefer not to talk about it. But I did want you all to know that this was going to be in the press. We all afforded her a great deal of privacy on the issue.

What kind of surprises are we going to expect in Season Three?

Hopefully, there will be a lot of them, if I've done my job right. We've got a couple of new characters that I'm bringing in to shake things up. We've got a new love interest for Teri Hatcher played by actor Dougray Scott, a lovely Scotsman, who will be playing an Englishman. I'm a sucker for a man with an accent so why shouldn't Susan (Teri's character) be? Then we've got a young, brilliant new actor, Josh Henderson, who's going to be playing

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tales with Marc and Marcia

ria Lane? From left, Felicity Huffman, Marcia Cross, Eva Longoria

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row at her.

Edie Britt's (Nicollette Sheridan) troublemaking nephew who will be coming to Wisteria Lane.

I hope to have some infusion of excitement from these actors. Plus we've got a couple of old favorites returning in our third episode of Season Three, including Jesse Metcalfe. We will see a certain amount of growth in that character.

How has success affected you?

I've become a raging Hollywood asshole. The first thing I say to people is that I don't fear dying broke anymore. That's a nice change. I think the biggest change in my life is that I got asked to judge the recent Miss Universe pageant. That was a lot of fun. It's weird because I go to places and I meet other famous people—many times they know who I am. That's really weird. I kind of toddled along through my life with a level of anonymity and suddenly, I woke up one day and for example, I walked into a Broadway theater and I got my tickets from a guy who says, oh, I love your show. He hadn't seen my name or anything. I was like, "Oh, ok, thank you."

It's that feeling of "I'm somebody," that's all. I always had a decent self-esteem but to have folks recognize you, that's an odd experience. To see how people react because you're somewhat known, that's just fascinating. But mostly, my life is as it always was. I get up, I go to work, I come home, I'm tired, I watch a little news, I pet my cat and then I go to bed.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com

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STORM BREAKER PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45, 7:55,10:10	SUKOB PG13 1:15,3:25,5:35, 7:45,10:00	MIAMI VICE R13 1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10

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INXS in Manila

With their new front man JD Fortune, the Australian band INXS, toast of the '80s, released a brand-new album, "Switch," which has sold more than 400,000 copies to date.

Now the band is set to rock Filipino fans as part of its "Switched On" world tour, which has packed venues in South Africa, America, Europe. The Manila gig is set August 15 at the Araneta Coliseum, when the band hits town for a one-night only engagement. Special guest rocker is Mig Ayesa, JD's co-finalist in last year's "Rockstar INXS" on Star World, a reality talent search launched to find a new lead singer for the band.

Critics worldwide are calling this regrouping the greatest comeback in rock 'n roll history.

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...only some of the reasons why you should not miss this film!

Cameron Bailey (Programmer, Toronto International Film Festival): *It is a powerful, beautifully observed film with a very affecting lead performance*

Rina Jimenez-David (Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer): *In Kubrador, Jeturan has shown the maturity of his gifts. The years may have padded her features, but Pareño remains a compelling performer.*

Julia Khomiakova (FIPRESCI, Russia): *The FIPRESCI award to Kubrador was a unanimous choice. We have never seen anything like it.*

Mario Bautista (Columnist, People's Journal): *Kubrador is the most daring film we've seen in years. It is Jeturian's most thought-provoking work so far with Pareno in the best performance of her life and career*

Phillip Cheah (Programmer, Singapore International Film Festival) *I think it is Jeturian's best work since Pila Balde and Tuhog. The lead actress, who is a fat lady, is brilliant.*

Billy Balbastro (Columnist, Abante): *Kubrador is a jewel of a film well-crafted and elegantly told with a strong social and political statement.*

Italo Spianelli (Consultant, Rome Film Festival): *The people behind Kubrador should be very proud. It marks a renaissance of Filipino films. It is so powerful and daring*

Tito Valiente (Columnist, Business Mirror): *If we are going to cheer and dream for the hope of our film industry, we look for them in films like Kubrador, and in actor like Gina Pareño. She is bound to shock those who have counted her as a losing bet.*

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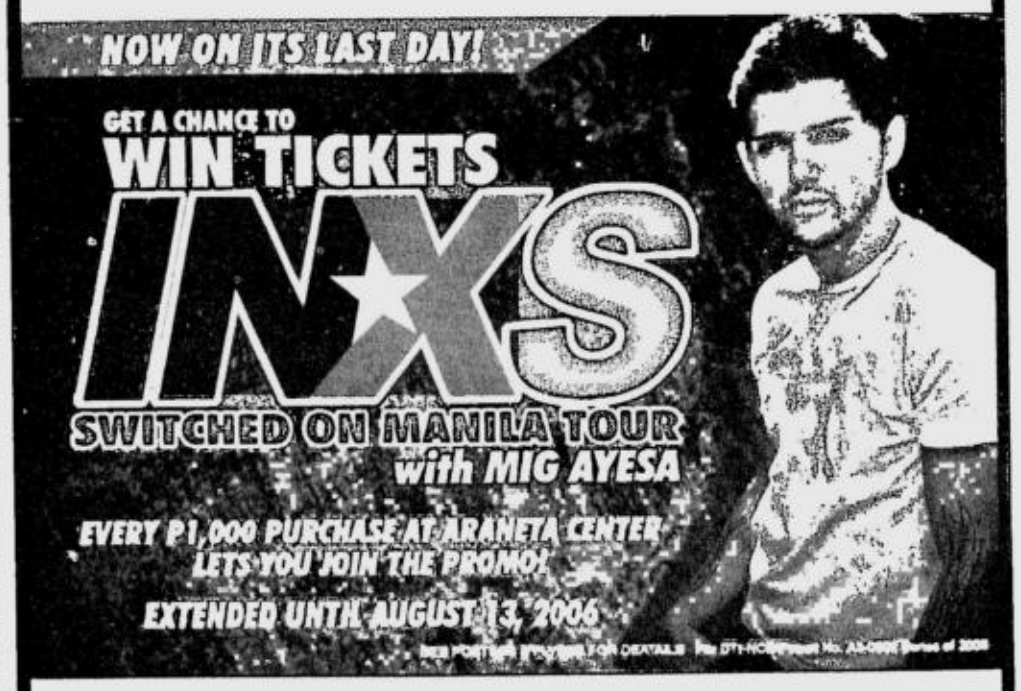

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ANT BULLY 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	MIAMI VICE 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50	THE BREAK - UP 6:40 / 9:00	CLICK 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:50 / 9:10

SM MALL 5

STORMBREAKER 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20	CLICK 1:15 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 8:15	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 R3 / 2:20 / 5:20 / 8:20
SUKOB 12:10 R2 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30	MIAMI VICE 12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Tokens for the Year 2006 NFA Service Awardees

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of P1,114,234.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2006 service awardees, as follows.*

LOT No.	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	166 pieces wristwatches, Model A	109,560.00
2	601 pieces wristwatches, Model B	489,214.00
3	355 pieces wristwatches, Model C	515,460.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2006 NFA service awardees.* Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address given below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 23, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the ***NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.***

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City. on* ***September 6, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

FORM OF SECURITY	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS.	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above.	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on September 6, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the ***NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	–	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person	–	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	–	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No.:	–	*(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address	–	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No.	–	*(632) 455-2758*
Website	–	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI–August 6 & 13, 2006)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada Davao City
Tel. No. 221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The *Davao City Water District*, with the *Approved Budget 2006* intends to apply the sum of ***Fifteen Million Six Hundred Thousand Pesos (P15,600,000.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to Payments under the contract for 1/2" ***Water Meter.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *Davao City Water District* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for:

   ABC: Php 15,600,000.00

   a) 15,600 pcs. – 1/2" (15mm)Ø Water Meter

   The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***P 5,000.00/package***. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***August 25, 2006 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** at ***DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.***
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before ***Sept. 6, 2006 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *cash or Manager's check* and in the amount of **P156,000.00.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on ***Sept. 6, 2006 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** at ***DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.*** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Davao City Water District
BAC-A
J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City
221-9400 (8000)
dcwd@davao-water.gov.ph
224-5392
www.davao-water.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VIRGINIA S. MARIMON
BAC-A Chairperson

(PDI–August 6 & 13, 2006)

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **"Implementation of the One Internet Service Provider (One-ISP) CY 2006 Project"** for the Department of Trade and Industry for a period of one (1) year, with an approved budget of Five million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 7 August 2006 until 5 P.M. of 14 August 2006 during office hours at the Supply Section, General Administrative Service, Ground Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Claudio H. Averilla, with telephone number 751-4996, after paying a non-refundable fee of Five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00). A pre-bid conference will be held on 14 August 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 28 August 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government. The DTI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–August 6 & 13, 2006)

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2% w/oTaking Car 6966630/33

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

LOOKING 4 LOT 4 RENT 4 PIGGERY IN LUZON LOOK 4 MARY JANE 09282404386

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ANGELINA JIZ DE ORTEGA HAS BEEN EXTRAJUCIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 415 PAGE NO. 84 BOOK XI SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. BENEDICTA BARRIENTOS. DOC. NO. 488 PAGE 98 BOOK XXII SERIES 2005 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC DOMINIC FELISARIA. DOC. # 6941 PAGE 232 SERIES OF 2005 BEFORE CONSUL PATRIC JOHN HILADO, PHIL CONSULATE, CHICAGO, ILL. U S A (AUG. 6,13&20, 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ESTATE OF DANILO CAMPOS SR. HAS BEEN EXTRA JUDICIALLY SETTLED PER DOC. NOTARIZED BEFORE ATTY. MICHAEL VITO CRUZ ENTERED AS DOC. 58, PAGE 13, BOOK II, SERIES OF 2005. (AUG. 6,13&20, 2006)

STUDY NOW PAY LATER CAREGIVER COURSE 3026893 09177924104 / 09228148324

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Marilao-Filipinas Pawnshop, M & R Bldg., Tabing-ilog Marilao,Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of FEBRUARY 2006 willl be Auctioned on AUG. 24, 08:00am.Lanuza & Sons Auctioneer.(PDI- August 13, 2006)

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop,Aliw Complex, Calvario,Meyc.Bulacan. All Unredeemed Pledges of FEB. 2006 willl be Auctioned on AUG. 24, 10:00am. Lanuza & Sons Autioneer. (PDI- August 13, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Extra-judicial Settlement Notice is Hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL V. ANDRADE JR. who died intestate on September 15, 2002 Left a Certain Parcels of Lands covered.By TCT Nos 17417;7801;'50911 Has been extra-judicially setteled among heirs Per Doc No. 295;Page No. 60 Book No. IV Series of 2006 Executed Before Notary Public Atty LETICIA S. MARIANO DE GUIA OF Paranaque City. (PDI July 30,Aug. 6&13,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENIGNO ANGELES BERNARDO has been extrajudicial settled among his heirs as per Doc no.381, Page no.77 Book no.XVI, Series of 2006 under Notary Public Atty. Julian T. Tutanes of Mandaluyong City. (PDI - Aug. 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO S. CRUZ has been extrajudicialy settled among his heirs as per Doc#179 Page#36 Book#480 Series of 2005 by Notary Public Atty. Lucila M. Lawas Yutoc of Pasig City. (PDI - July 30 & Aug 6 & 13, 2006)

Notice is Hereby given That the estate of the late RODRIGO I. CRUZ,SR. and LETICIA A. CRUZ has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs before Notary Public EUTROPIO A. MIGRIÑO as Per Doc.133,Page no 28 Book No. II Series of 2006 (PDI Aug 6,13 &20,2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANTONIO R. HERNANDEZ has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 472, Page No. 95 Book No 102, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana of Marikina City. (PDI-August 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LUCAS MORFE AND DONATA LAINO MORFE WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AS PER DOC. NO. 80; PAGE NO. 16; BOOK NO. I AND DOC. No. 81; PAGE NO. 17; SERIES OF 2006 OF NOTARY PUBLIC JUAN VICTOR VALDEZ (PDI- Aug. 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALBERT BALAIS DINGCOL was Extra-judially Settled By the heirs as Per Doc# 055 Page#13 Book#91 Series of 2006 By Notary Public Atty. DANILO B. BAÑARES of Makati City. (PDI Aug.06,13&20'06)

Notice is Hereby Given that the Estate of the late PETRONILO A. RIVERA was Extrajudicially settled among His Heirs as per Doc no.93 Page no. 20 Book no. 66 Series of 2006 Notary Public Atty. LOPE M. VELASCO of Manila (PDI-Aug 6,13,20'06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS LASTRELLA has been adjudicated to Vilma Alviso per Doc # 395 Page # 40 Book # 812 Series of 2006 by Notary Public Atty Hector Bi Centeno of Quezon City. PDI-August 13, 20 & 27, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS MANIULIT YOUNG was extrajudicially settled among her heirs by virtue of the Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement and Partition executed by them on July 27,2006 before Notary Public Atty.Ma. TERESA GOMEZ-VALDEZ of Quezon City City as per Doc.No. 287,Page No.59,-Book No. 23,Series of 2006 of her Notarial Register. (PDI Aug.13,20 & 27'2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is Given of lost Bank of PI Certificate No. 215543 issued To FRANCIS V. VERGEL DE DIOS.If No Contest Received New Certificate will be issued
(PDI Aug. 13,20&27,2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is Given of lost Stock Cert. No. 5219 issued by Equitable Banking Corp. to MARCELO DEE covering 45,000 shares has been lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Aug. 6, 13, 20, 2006)

Kraft Foods (Philippines), Inc.

INVITATION TO BID

Kraft Foods (Philippines), Inc. is currently looking for buyers of the following used AS/400 machines

System	:	9406-S30
Processor	:	2320
Memory	:	4GB
ASP	:	210GB
Tape drive	:	3590-B11 with robotic library 7208 QIC
System	:	9406-S30
Processor	:	2259

With expansion disk drive.
Interested parties are requested to visit and bid on Aug 14-16, 2006.

For further details, please call **Ms. Cecile Garcia** at telephone nos. **826-5546 to 49.**

Newtech Care Systems, LLC
a Company based in Orange County, California, USA is in need of

PROGRAMMER

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Please send resume at:
Shemac Computer Center
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or email Shee_mac11@yahoo.com
Interview schedule. August 23-25 and Sept. 4-5, 2006

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II. CV Anesthesiology Division
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III. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division
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3. Itemized Board Rating
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5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2006
- Academic Year 2006 starts on January 1, 2007

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager
Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI – July 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 Aug. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC)** is inviting interested and legitimate contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bid proposals for the improvement of the NTC Building (construction of NTC Main Entrance Canopy, Covered Walkway and Repainting). The approved budget is **P4,640,774.57.**

Letter of Intent and Registration requirements can be secured from **Ms. Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod,** Head, NTC BAC Secretariat, NTC Bldg., BIR Road, East Avenue, Quezon City, beginning **22 August 2006,** to be submitted not later than **1 September 2006, 5:00 P.M.,** through the NTC-BAC Secretariat.

Notification of registered suppliers and issuance of bid documents to registered contractors shall be from **11-15 September 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00).

Pre-bid Conference will be on **18 September 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the NTC Office, NTC Bldg., BIR Rd., East Avenue, Quezon City.

Deadline for submission and opening of the bids will be on **17 October 2006 at 2:00 P.M. and 17 October 2006 at 2:15 P.M.,** respectively. Bidders shall submit **four (4) separate sealed envelopes; two (2)** envelopes containing **the technical component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy, and **two (2)** envelopes containing the **financial component** of the bid, one (1) envelope duly marked as Original and the other as a Copy. All communications must be addressed to the undersigned in the above-specified address.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with **Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

The NTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality of the bid proposals received and to accept and award the bid to the bidder whose proposal is considered most advantageous to the Government. The NTC assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation/process of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JAIME M. FORTES, JR.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – August 13 & 20, 2006)

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for Submission of Expressions of Interest/ Statements of Qualification for the Provision of Internet Connections to Schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, is inviting interested and qualified firms (telcos/ providers/contractors/suppliers, etc.) that can provide Internet access to selected schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao (CAAM), under its Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program, to submit expressions of interest and qualifications statements.

Firms should demonstrate the capacity to provide 300 to 400 schools, located in the ARMM and CAAM, with Internet connections that meet the following minimum specifications: (a) 128 Kbps bandwidth or higher at each school site, scalable to higher levels at a later date as school demand increases, that can support traditional data communications traffic, and optionally, Voice over IP; and (b) can be networked to at least 10 computer units. Prospective providers may use any transport medium applicable to the geographic location and the terrestrial condition of each school and may, if necessary, propose to install "last mile" equipment. Interested firms must also describe their capacities to implement a "managed internet service" which will provide the following service/facilities: (a) trouble dispatch with a guaranteed minimum response time for on-site problems and equipment repair; (b) network operations centers to monitor the reliability and overall performance of the internet connections in the schools, and (c) a reliable billing system.

Interested firms should send responses to: The Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts, GEM Program, 2nd Floor, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines no later than August 21, 2006. The responses should include the firm's expression of interest, company/organization profile indicating the full name, addresses, and contact numbers of the principal personnel, a detailed description of the firm's major services and products, and certified copies of: (i) SEC registration for corporations or partnerships and DTI registration, (ii) PRC licenses (for the current year) of the chief technical engineer(s), (iii) VAT registration certificate, (iv) registration of business name, (v) current business permit, (vi) audited financial statement for the past two years, (vii) list of completed projects and on-going projects, and (viii) list of client/corporate references.

A conference for interested firms is scheduled for August 23, 2006 (Wednesday) from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at the GEM Conference Room., 2nd Floor, GEM Program Management Office, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City. Prospective offerors are required to send representatives to this meeting to discuss procurement and technical matters relative to the services required. The solicitation document for this and other related procurement actions may be distributed to interested, qualified parties at that time. An information packet containing the list of schools proposed for connection may be requested from the GEM Program through Fax No.: (082) 225-1569 local 169 or by email at: clic@mindanao.org.

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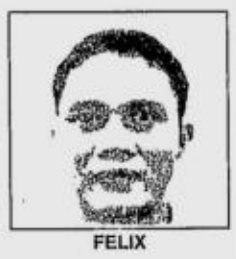
Ms. Claudia "Claudine" C. De Leon, Ms. Leslie B. Manalo & **Mr. Felix S. Padillo II** whose pictures appear below, have resigned and are no longer connected with **V-TECH** effective **June 30, June 30 & May 15, 2006** respectively. Any transactions with the above persons shall not be honored by **V-TECH. For the guidance of all concerned.**

CLAUDINE

LESLIE


FELIX

(PDI - Aug. 13, 2006)

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dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PHARMAWEALTH LABORATORIES, INC.,** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Producer of Essential Drugs (Cephalosporin)** with an annual capacity of 10 Million vials, on a Pioneer Status with project site located at **Industrial Zone, Brgy. San Jose Malamig, San Pablo City, Laguna.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – August 13, 2006)

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AME INDUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS SY 2006-2007

The Association of Marketing Educators of the Philippines (AME) recently held its 18th Founding Anniversary simultaneously with its Induction of Board of Directors for SY 2006-2007 at the Renaissance Hotel. AME president Cynthia A. Abella receives gavel and symbol of the organization from past president Rodelon V. del Mundo during the turn over ceremony.

KRISTIAN PAULO CRISOSTOMO JEFFREY BASIJAN

This is to notify the public that the above persons; KRISTIAN PAULO CRISOSTOMO and JEFFREY BASIJAN whose pictures shown above are no longer connected to ROP BUSINESS PROVIDER CORPORATION / ROP POTATO CUDDLER effective May 19, 2006.

Transactions made with the said persons, after the said date will not be honored by the company

(PDI--Aug. 13, 2006)

OBITUARIES

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."
—John 3:16

Ann Kuzniar Burridge

August 31, 1925 to July 1, 2006

Ann Kuzniar Burridge, 80, died peacefully on July 1, 2006 at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, surrounded by her family. She is survived by her husband Lew, her son Lewis, her daughters Carol and Laura, her brother John Kuzniar, and eight grandchildren.

During her many years in Manila, she developed friendships that lasted her lifetime. For those who mourn her passing, a special memorial service will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park.

Carmen "Ameng" Reyes Perfecto

Born on April 17, 1926

Peacefully returned to her Maker, surrounded by her loved ones at 5:50 in the afternoon on Thursday, August 10, 2006.

She is survived by her children, **Ignacio, Francis, John, Susan, Bam, Carmen, Tiny,** and **Martin** and her children-in-law **Connie, Maritess, Dante,** and **Gerry** and her grandchildren **Oliver, Aisha, Noah, Micki, Sarah, Trissy, Anna, Kippy, Dani, Joanna,** and **Angelo.**

She will be waked at the St. Ignatius Village Chapel from Friday, August 11 until today, August 13. Her ashes will be interred at the crypt of the Christ the King Parish Church in Green Meadows Subdivision after the 10:00 a.m Mass at the St. Ignatius Village Chapel today, August 13.

Please omit flowers.

In loving memory on
his 1st Death Anniversary

WILFREDO (WILLI) N. GUZMAN

July 16, 1940 – August 13, 2005

His family – **Malou; Carl, Kim, Synjin & Itos;** and **Jeanette & Raymond** – requests relatives, friends and readers to include him in their prayers today.

Masses will be offered for him in the following churches:

PCJ Parish, BF P'que	10:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
Parish of the Resurrection, BF P'que	9:00 a.m.
St. Jerome & Sta. Susana Church, Alabang	8:30 a.m.
Benedictine Abbey, Alabang Hills	11:00 a.m.
St. Anthony de Padua Parish, P'que	7:00 p.m.

Commodore Amador V. Lucero (Ret.)

(Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey)
of Guinobatan, Albay and Mandaluyong City

Peacefully joined the Lord on August 8, 2006 at the age of 86.

His bereaved wife, **Connie;** children and children-in-law **Amor, Annie & Nony, Baby, Juancho & Onette** and **Cynthia;** grandchildren **Niño, Marielle, Amadeo, Angel, Amor, Jr., Mona, Marc, Martin, Marielle, Noel, Jr., Angelo, Arischelle, Jeofrey** and **Kristen,** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers sto pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be today, August 13, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
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Message of Thanks

WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

XAVIER CARLOS "ZEV" L. ELIZALDE

WHO PASSED AWAY ON JULY 26, 2006

WISH TO EXPRESS OUR DEEP APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE
TO ALL THOSE WHO OFFERED MASSES & PRAYERS,
SENT CARDS AND FLOWERS,
ATTENDED THE RELIGIOUS SERVICES, AND IN COUNTLESS WAYS
CONDOLED AND GAVE US SOLACE AND STRENGTH
IN OUR BEREAVEMENT.

PLEASE INCLUDE ZEV IN YOUR PRAYERS.

MARY MEDIATRIX MEDICAL CENTER, INC.

mourns the death of its
President and Chief Executive Officer

VICENTE LAT MAGSINO, SR., M.D., FPCP, FPCC

Founder, Mary Mediatrix Medical Center, Inc.
Founder, The Good Samaritan Foundation
Founder, Lipa City Medical Society

July 19, 1928 - August 10, 2006

His colleagues at the MMMC, INC.
join his family in requesting the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence
33 Antipolo Del Norte, Lipa City.

Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, August 15, 2006
2:00 p.m. at the San Sebastian Cathedral,
Lipa City.

In lieu of flowers, please donate
to the Mary Mediatrix Medical Center Foundation
(The Good Samaritan)

VICENTE LAT MAGSINO, SR., M.D., FPCP, FPCC

"Enteng"

July 19, 1928 - August 10, 2006

of Lipa City, Batangas

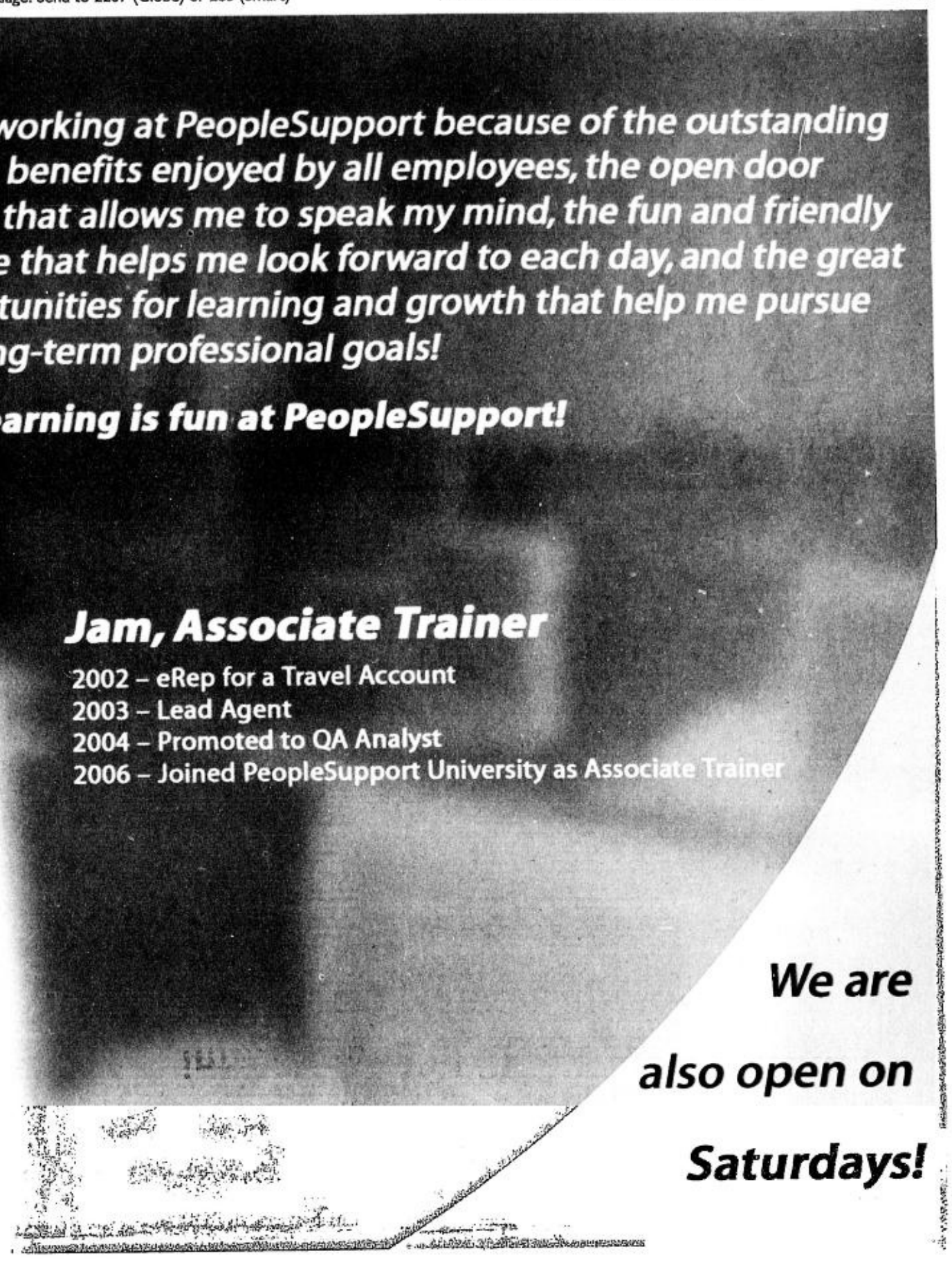
peacefully joined his Creator
on August 10, 2006 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Lillian**; children **Bobby** and **Weng**, **Anthony** (†), **Issa** and **Tony**, **Dunol** and **Beth**, **Loy** and **Jimmy**, **Tet** and **Bing**, **Je** and **Freda**, **Mean** and **Joey**; grandchildren **Karen**, **Lian**, **Arvin**, **Noel**, **Tad**, **Joseph**, **Bernadette**, **Jasmine**, **Megan**, **Jedrick**, **Jamie**, **Christopher**, **Janna** and **Pia**; siblings **Oning** (†) & **Tentay** (†), **retired Justice Celso** & **Letty**, **Alfonso** (†) & **Letty**, **Danny** (†) & **Estela** (†), **Ano** (†) & **Chit**; cousins, nephews & nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence
33 Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City.

Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, August 15, 2006
2:00 p.m. at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the
Mary Mediatrix Medical Center Foundation
(The Good Samaritan)



WHO IS PEOPLESUPPORT?

PeopleSupport, Inc. is one of the largest and leading US-based business process outsourcing (BPO) providers in the Philippines. Over 7,000 employees are spread out among world-class facilities in Manila, Cebu and Costa Rica, and its headquarters in California, USA.

MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

For positions listed below, email resume to
corporatejobs@peoplesupport.com
indicate position on the subject line.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
Vice President, Continuous Improvement (Six Sigma Blackbelt)

OPERATIONS
Program Director, Financial Services • Program Director, Technical Support
Operations Manager • Team Manager

TRAINING
Communications Trainer • Technical Trainer
Financial Trainer • Sales Trainer
Leadership Training Manager (Management Development Trainer) - Programs
Management Development Senior Trainer Projects

SALES
Client Services Manager • Sales Associate

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Network Engineer (CISCO) • Telecommunications Manager (Avaya)
Telecommunications Engineer • Consulting Manager
Helpdesk • System Administrator • Software Developer
Business Analyst • Asset Officer • Senior Database Administrator
Payroll System Administrator • Telecommunications Administrator (Cebu)

HUMAN RESOURCES
Employee Relations Officer • Recruitment Officer for Sourcing
Compensation and Benefits Associate • Recruitment Associate
HR Project Manager Recruitment Administrator • Recruitment Assistant
Employee Relations Assistant • Employee Programs Officer

FINANCE
Manager for Financial Reporting • Senior Finance Officer
Payroll Assistant

We pay a premium for international contact center experience and foreign language proficiency!

Banking and Finance Specialist

Technical Specialist

Collection Associates

Inbound and Outbound Sales eReps

Team Supervisors (Manila & Cebu)
Financial Services • Sales • Technical Support

We strongly encourage walk-in applicants.
Please be ready with your SSS No., TIN and NBI clearance.

Makati City
PeopleSupport Center
Ayala corner Sen Puyat Ave
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 8:00pm
Saturday, 9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City
PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Davao City
A-301 Plaza de Luisa
140 Ramon Magsaysay Ave
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (82) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com

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www.peoplesupport.com

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ASSOCIATE CREATIVE **DIRECTOR** — **WEB** SPECIALISTS
CLAIMS **ANALYSTS** — **CUSTOMER SERVICE** ASSOCIATE
IT / HELPDESK **ASSOCIATES** — **ACCOUNTING** SPECIALISTS

LWCI is one of the fastest growing companies in the e-commerce industry specializing in managing top US-based home improvement websites. We offer above-average remuneration packages and benefits that include:

- **Allowance packages** (meals, transportation, laundry and medical)
- **Healthcare and life insurance coverage**
- **Attendance incentives**
- **Limitless commission** (for sales personnel)

LAKE WASHINGTON COMMUNICATIONS, INC SEATTLE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Email: recruitment@seacom.ph
Phone: 02-898-3848
Address: 312 B 3/F LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia Street, Bel - Air II, Makati City

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Punongbayan & Araullo

Our affiliate, a leading international accounting firm located in Nassau, the Bahamas, is expanding its operations and is looking for professionals to join its team as ...

SENIOR AUDITORS AND ACCOUNTANTS

Requirements

- Certified Public Accountant
- At least four years experience in public accounting
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Superior presentation and organizational skills
- Good leadership qualities
- Willingness to work long hours
- Ability to deliver with minimum supervision and work with senior management

Successful candidates will be assigned to the Bahamas for a period of two to four years.

AN ATTRACTIVE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS PACKAGE, AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAVEL AND BE PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM, WILL BE OFFERED TO THE RIGHT CANDIDATE.

We invite you to bring, fax, e-mail, or mail your resumé and 2x2 photograph to:

Alfredo V. Damian
Partner, HR & Communication
Punongbayan & Araullo
19th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel: (02) 886-5511 loc. 728
Fax: (02) 886-5511 loc. 722
E-mail: hr@pna.ph

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Member of Grant Thornton International

Associate Computer Systems Analyst

(for the Comprehensive Loan Accounting and Services System)

Responsibilities

The position designs, supports and maintains the Comprehensive Loan Accounting and Services System (CLASS) involving medium to high-level technical complexity, either through the leadership of an independent project team or through participation in major systems development projects as principal member.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Senior Collaborative and Web Technology Specialist, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- a Bachelor degree in MIS, Computer Science, Business Administration, Accounting, Engineering, or related areas.
- at least 5 years experience in programming using Oracle platform, of which 3 to 4 years are on applications related to accounting, banking and/or finance.
- proficiency in systems analysis and design, preparation of functional and detailed specifications design, and programming, testing and data analysis.
- proficiency in programming using standard SQL and PL/SQL.
- familiarity with data warehousing concept and reporting tools such as Oracle Discoverer or COGNOS Report Net.
- good knowledge of Oracle tools including JDeveloper, Application Object Library (AOL), and use of Oracle APIs.
- knowledge of Visual LANSA development platform, Java, HTML and XML will be a plus.
- good working knowledge in the system development/implementation hardware/software platforms used in a multilateral institution.
- good oral and written communication skills, and ability to work well with others.
- good supervisory skills.
- a good working knowledge of software tools such as Lotus Notes and MS Office suite.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-190(4)-OIST** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **25 August 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

We need the best people to sell the best view!

Ledesco Development Corporation is a 30-year old real estate development company actively engaged in developing residential and resort oriented-properties in urban areas outside of Metro Manila. We are looking for creative, higly motivated, aggresive, results-oriented individuals whove got what it takes to be leaders!

Sales Associates

- Male or Female 18 years old and above with pleasing personality
- College student or graduate, entrepeneur Must be a fast learner and willing to take new challenge
- Strong in interpersonal communication and management skills
- Willing to work for long hours and on weekends

Licensed Real Estate Brokers / Broker Groups are also welcome.

Testimonials

"I made P108,000 in just one week marketing Taal View Heights."
Vangie Aranda - Unit Manager

"On the first day month of our affilation with LEDESCO my combined effort with my husband produces an earning of more than P 300,000 until now we can continously hold on our principle of making business with the LEDESCO because of making the benefit we are having for family's future."
Maria S. Mahinay PLM Grapes Team

We invite you to market Taal View Heights Country Homes, our leisure community overlooking Taal Lake.

Due to the urgency of requirements, interested parties are requested to send their resumes together with this ad to 2nd Floor, L & R Building 1018 Arnaiz Ave (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City or fax them to 830-2179 or email to cathy24yumul@yahoo.com. For inquiries please call us at 811-6420/941-2119 or text us at 09198156468 look for Ms. Cathy Yumul

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Reaching New Heights HYUNDAI Global City Hub

We are inviting young, dynamic people to join us in our expansion program as

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- Male or Female, not more than 40 years of age
- Graduate of any 4-year collegiate course
- Sales experience in any related field an advantage
- Proficient in both oral and written English communication
- Driving skills an advantage

SERVICE ADVISORS

- Male, not more than 35 years of age
- Graduate of any engineering or related course
- Customer-oriented and with good oral and written communication skills
- Preferably with previous work experience in an automotive company
- Willing to work on extended hours

SERVICE TECHNICIANS

- Male, not more than 25 years of age
- Graduate of trade/vocational in Automotive Technology
- Experience in the same capacity gained from an automotive service company an advantage
- Driving skills also an advantage

Interested applicants may apply personally in business attire or send their resume together with their transcript of records and 2x2 colored picture to the Human Resource Department **(attention: Ms. Vinia Deduyo or Ms. Nhoan Daza)** at **Blk. 15 Ford Global City Bldg. Rizal Drive, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.** *(or e-mail at **vinia@fordglobalcity.com**).*

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Cubao, Quezon City

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- ✓ Passed the CGFNS or NCLEX
- ✓ Obtained a Visa Screen
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  - Located in the Lost Angeles area of Southern California, USA.

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921 South Beacon Street, San Pedro, California
www.healthview.org

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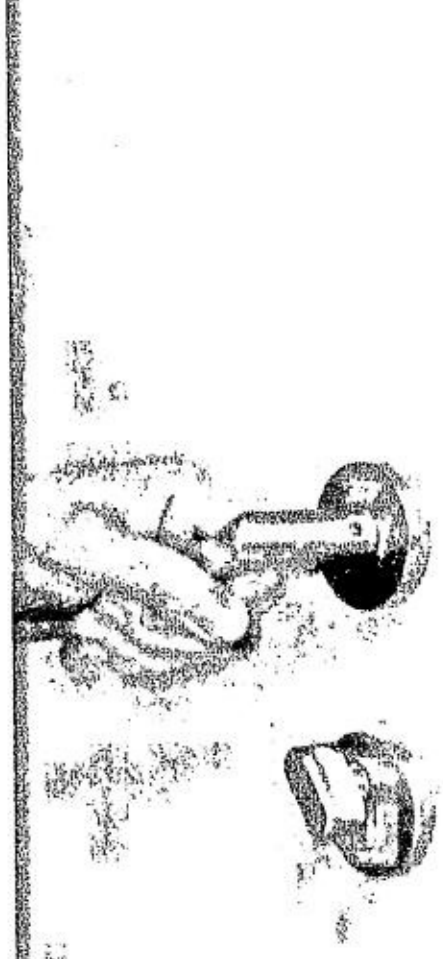
Take a closer look. Our doors are open.



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We speak well and listen even better. That's how we communicate behind the doors of Convergys.

We are looking for individuals with passion for learning and drive for success.

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(Alabang, Commonwealth, or Makati)

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES
(Makati)

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(Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas)

FINANCIAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE
(Makati or Ortigas)

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(Ortigas - email your resume to alex.raymundo@convergys.com)
Daytime openings for Mandarin/ Cantonese/ Fookien speaking agents

Visit any of our sites from Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm, and experience faster processing. You may also email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com.

Free food will be served to walk-in applicants at our Makati site from August 14-18, 2006 and get a chance to win Electronic Ayala Mall gift certificates during job offer!

Apply at our Ortigas site from August 14-18, 2006 for a chance to win an MP3 Player and other exciting gift items!

Apply at our U-Bix site from August 14-18, 2006 for a chance to win gift certificates during job offer!

All applicants processed in our Alabang Site from August 14-18, 2006 will each be entitled to a free meal!

Free food will be served to walk-in applicants at our Commonwealth site on August 16, 2006!

CONVERGYS
Outthinking Outdoing

VSO

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community organisations in the Philippines.
40 professional volunteers are currently working all over the country to strengthen local capabilities and enhance capacities in secure livelihoods, community-based natural resource management, gender & development, peacebuilding, disabilities and governance.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines is recruiting a Programme Area Manager (PAM) to implement, supervise, and manage the Disability programme area plan and would be able to assist and support other programme areas such as secure livelihoods. The contract is for a fixed term of thirteen (13) months.

PROGRAMME AREA MANAGER (PAM) VSO PHILIPPINES

Applicants must possess:

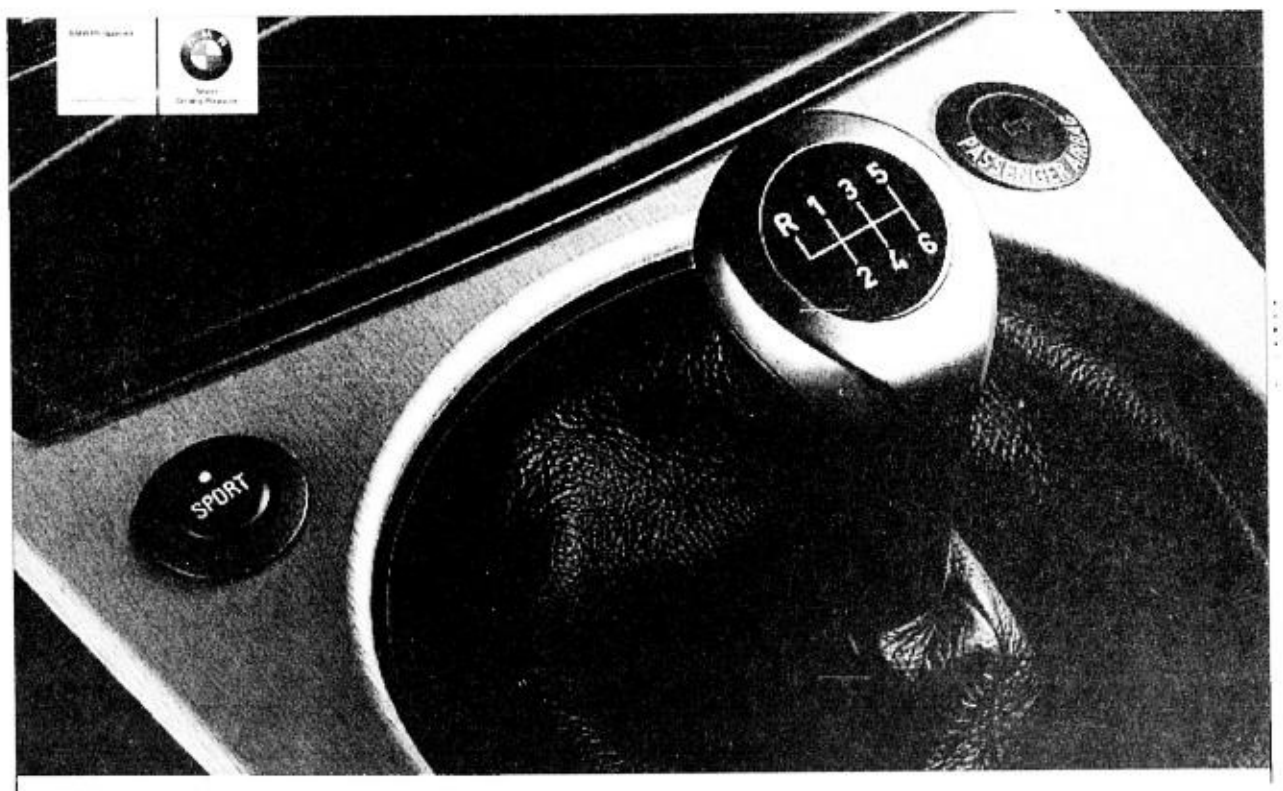
- At least 2 year's experience in social development work, preferably in disability programme development and management. He/she should have some relevant experience in organization development, specifically in organizational capacity assessment and capacity building techniques and processes;
- A firm grasp and understanding of disability mainstreaming issues, preferably with a working knowledge of issues in the deaf and hearing-impaired sector.
- Knowledge and understanding of related social science and development issues, preferably in sustainable livelihoods or development management.
- Some work experience in an international development organization or in working and dealing with people of diverse nationalities and cultural backgrounds
- Relevant and demonstrable experience in resource mobilization through fundraising or institutional funding, including event organizing, proposal making and report writing;
- Excellent writing and communication skills, preferably with effective presentation skills (use of Powerpoint);
- Willingness to travel to programme focus areas;
- Ability to work well under pressure;
- Good people management skills;
- Willingness to work with a team;
- Computer literacy in MS Office applications

The Programme Area Manager will lead in the development and management of the VSO programme area plan for disabilities in the Philippines. The job entails supporting and assisting the VSOP Country Director in fulfilling the disability programme area objectives and plans as indicated in the Country Strategic Plan. In particular, the PAM's responsibilities include programme area development and management; volunteer support and administration; and, fundraising planning and support.

An important part of the Programme Area Manager's responsibilities would be to support the wider VSOP programme, including providing assistance and support to the secure livelihoods programme area.

The successful applicant will be offered a fixed contract for thirteen (13) months. The applicant should be in post no later than September 4, 2006. For a full description of the post and the Disability Programme Area Plan, please see the VSO webpage.

If you are interested in applying for this post, please access the VSO standard application form from the VSO Philippines website – http://www.geocities.com/vsophilippines. WE WILL ONLY CONSIDER APPLICATIONS IN ELECTRONIC FORM. Forms must be submitted no later than 1600 hrs of 18 August 2006. Interview date for the PAM position is August 29, in Quezon City. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified. Please note that this is a national post.



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The candidate should possess the following qualifications and characteristics:

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Interested applicants are requsted to e-mail their comprehensive resume no later than August 31, 2006

to hrph@list.bmw.com or Human Resources Department
BMW Philippines Corporation
15th Floor Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City.

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Please call: (044) 641-2077 • (044) 927-6167

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Accenture knows the importance of creating the right environment for success. You can develop your skills here faster than almost anywhere else because we're one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies. We're now opening a new Customer Contact Services Center in the Philippines and we want talented people who are looking for a challenge. Join our global team and you'll be delivering the innovation that helps our clients become high-performance businesses.

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We are looking for bright, talented and mature individuals with excellent communications skills. If you are a graduate of any four-year course and keen on building a long-term career, then start with us.

Once hired as a customer care agent, you will go through a comprehensive training program designed to prepare you to work at the highest level of efficiency. And through our Call Center University of Excellence, you gain the advantage of a continuous learning program that develops deep specialized skills and facilitates personal and leadership growth.

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Most of all, at Accenture, we want you to have an exceptional career experience. We offer you many avenues for growth and the opportunity to manage your own career. Being a large company, we are equipped to provide you with varied career options within the Accenture career framework to best utilize your skills.

Join our customer contact services team. Find out in 40 minutes if you pre-qualify as a customer care agent by visiting careers.accenture.com/philippines/accs. Apply now!

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JOB Market

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cross functional jobs
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Being above the ordinary, you have the potential to make something special.
Be part of the leading innovator in Business Process Outsourcing.
Be the pioneer batch of our new accounts and partner with us in becoming special and staying special.

Work for a company unlike any other
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be a pioneer for:

Consumer Banking

. Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
. Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
. Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
. Should have good comprehension skills
. Experience in upselling is an advantage

Online Photo Publishing Service

. Must be a graduate of college or a 2-year vocational course
. Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
. Must be adept in computers and various applications

Travel

. Must be a graduate of college or a 2-year vocational course
. Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
. Must be adept in computers
. Preferably those with good background in Tourism, Foreign Service, International Studies, and other related courses
. Prior experience in the Travel Industry (i.e. as a reservation agent with good travel training and familiarity with IATA) is an advantage
. Experience in upselling and cross-selling is also an advantage
. Must have high comprehension, must be an active listener, and a critical thinker

Consumer Electronics

. Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
. Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills
. Must be adept in computers and various applications
. Good background in troubleshooting various appliances is an advantage

Consumer Manufacturing
(Japanese - Speaking)

. Must be a graduate of any 4-year course
. Must possess excellent oral and written Japanese and English communication skills
. Must be able to read Kanji and Katakana
. Must be adept in computers and various applications

Talent for Innovation
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Be Part of Our Team!

CITEM is an export promotions agency of the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry. Its thrust is to promote the Philippines as a reliable source of high-quality products and services through trade fairs, special exhibits, in-store promotions, trade missions, and other promotional activities here and abroad.

CITEM has openings for immediate hiring for the following positions:

CHIEFS-TRADE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST FOR OPERATIONS: AGRI-MARINE & SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISIONS (ITEM NOS. 105 AND 114, SG-24)
- *Masteral Degree/Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, International Studies, Business Management or other related studies
- 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision preferably in export promotions, marketing or project management (knowledge of the trade and export industry, a plus)

DIVISION CHIEF III FOR EXHIBITION DESIGN SERVICES (ITEM NO. 48, SG 24)
- *Masteral Degree/Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Design, Fine Arts, Architecture, Visual Merchandising or other related studies
- At least 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision of an exhibitions or visual merchandising design team
- Industrial design background and significant portfolio are musts
- Working knowledge of current design related software required

DIVISION CHIEF III FOR CORPORATE PLANNING (ITEM NO. 16, SG 24)
- *Masteral Degree/Bachelor's Degree in Business, Economics, Marketing or other related studies
- 4 years in position/s involving management and supervision preferably in strategic planning and monitoring, market opportunity identification, issue analysis and market assessment
- Must have excellent technical writing skills, extensive experience in market research methodologies, in-depth understanding of current international and local economic issues, broad knowledge of the trade and export industry, and business development

CREATIVE ARTS SPECIALIST V - DIVISION CHIEF FOR CREATIVE SERVICES (ITEM NO. 30, SG 24)
- *Masteral Degree/Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Communications, Visual Arts, Creative Arts, Advertising, Multimedia Arts or any course with graphic design or art focus
- At least 5 years of professional design experience including 4 years of management and team leadership responsibility

LEGAL OFFICER IV (ITEM NO. 6, SG 22)
- Bachelor of Laws degree from a reputable school and a member of the Philippine Bar
- Preferably with two years experience in handling cases involving government corporations and trade disputes, and in other phase of legal work, including prosecution and defense of cases before judicial and administrative bodies
- Must be well versed in contract drafting/review and in administrative legal support
- Exceptional English communication skills, both written and oral

SUPERVISING TRADE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST FOR SHIPPING, TRAVEL, RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION (SG 22)
- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Customs Administration, Tourism or other related studies
- 3 years of relevant experience preferably in shipping, travel, records management or documentation

SUPERVISING TRADE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS FOR OPERATIONS (SG 22)
- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Marketing, International Studies, Business Management or other related studies
- 3 years of relevant experience preferably in export promotions, marketing or project management (knowledge of the trade and export industry, a plus)

INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST III (SG 19)
(to be assigned to Multimedia Services)
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Advertising, Visual Communications, or any related studies
- 2 years of relevant experience preferably in web development and multimedia work
- Extensive knowledge of various and current web and multimedia applications

SENIOR TRADE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS FOR OPERATIONS (SG 18)
- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Marketing, International Studies, Business Management of other related studies
- 2 years of relevant experience preferably in export promotions, marketing or project management (knowledge of the trade and export industry, a plus)

TRADE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST II FOR OPERATIONS (SG 15)
- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Marketing, International Studies, Business Management and other related studies
- 1 year of relevant experience preferably in export promotions, marketing or project management (knowledge of the trade and export industry, a plus)

ACCOUNTANT II (SG15)
- Bachelor's Degree in Commerce/Business Administration, Major in Accounting
- 1 year of relevant experience (knowledge of government accounting, a plus)
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant

CREATIVE ARTS SPECIALIST II (SG 15)
- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Fine Arts, Advertising, Industrial Design or Multimedia Arts
- Graphic design background and significant portfolio are musts
- 1 year of relevant experience
- Working knowledge of current design related software required (Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Macromedia Freehand, Word, Excel, PowerPoint) With basic knowledge of photography.

*Applicants for the above positions must possess the required Civil Service Professional/ Second Level Eligibility (R.A. 1080 for Legal Officer IV and Accountant II). Trainings/workshops relevant to his/her field are also required. *Masteral degree is a basic requirement for Division Chief positions.*

Item Nos.105, 114, 48, 16 and 30 are permanent positions. Meanwhile, applicants for other positions must be willing to work on contractual basis.

Applicants may send their application, resume, training certificates and other credentials to the **HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION,** Golden Shell Pavilion, ITC Complex, Sen Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Roxas Blvd., Pasay City or email to **hrd@citem.com.ph.**

Deadline for submission is 31 August 2006

CITEM *Managing Opportunities In The Export Market*
Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions

For more information, log on to: **www.citem.com.ph**

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- *Marketing & Business Development Manager*

Researchers/Analysts

We seek individuals with outstanding written and oral communication skills plus a strong online research capability. They must be able to work on complex situations that often may not have a prescribed solution. Analysts must have excellent problem-solving and analytical skills, including the ability to identify issues and propose methodological solutions.

We are looking for reliable, proactive, detail-oriented and organized persons who are able to multi-task in a fast-paced environment and can tolerate ambiguity. They should be fast learners who must be able to work with our highly collaborative team

Having an advanced degree (like an MBA), foreign language skills and/or relevant work experience will be an added advantage.

Human Resources Officer

We need an individual with excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills. Strong administration skills will be a bonus. The person for the post should be organized, detail oriented, patient, resourceful, creative and adaptable. The individual must be willing to work long hours.

Relevant education and working experience is preferred.

Marketing & Business Development Manager

We are looking for an individual with immense creative potential, capable of leading the way in raising the awareness, interest and usage of the company's customized research services to a regional (Asia Pacific) and global market. Being in a highly unique and specialized field of service, catering to the corporate intelligence needs of top global companies, we expect to go beyond traditional approaches of marketing & business development. As such, while relevant past experience & knowledge is vital, of equal importance is the ability to craft new & innovative marketing campaigns worthy of a world-wide business audience

Walk-in applicants will not be entertained. Please send your resume to jobs@explorasia.com along with a one-page essay on why you want to work with us.

EXPLORASIA covers every major industry, market and company on the continent, from the Pacific coast westward to India.

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- ✓ W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY
- ✓ CAN SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY
- ✓ RESOURCEFUL
- ✓ CREATIVE
- ✓ HARDWORKING

DENTIST DENTAL ASSISTANT
- ➢ FEMALE (Preferably Single)
- ➢ 22 TO 30 YEARS OLD
- ➢ TEAM PLAYER
- ➢ AGGRESSIVE
- ➢ HARDWORKING

Pls. call 892-9058 / 892-4427
to submit resumé at 1202 Medical Plaza, Makati
Cor. Amorsolo & De la Rosa Sts., Legaspi Vill., Makati City

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A leading provider of Broadcast and Multimedia Technologies in the Philippines is urgently in need of:

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Qualifications:
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- Computer Literate
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Willing to travel
- Knowledgeable in doing technical designs and plans

SALES ENGINEER
Qualifications:
- Graduates of ECE, Comp. Eng'g
- With good communication and time management skills (flexible)
- Highly motivated and determined
- Selling experience is an advantage
- Computer Literate
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Willing to travel
- Knowledgeable in doing technical designs and plans

Submit your resumés at Room 303 Golden Sun Realty Corporation, #29 Mindanao Avenue, Pag-asa, Q.C.
Phone: 426-4360 Look for Rita Navarro

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Check out more jobs from Jobmarket Compact every Wednesday.

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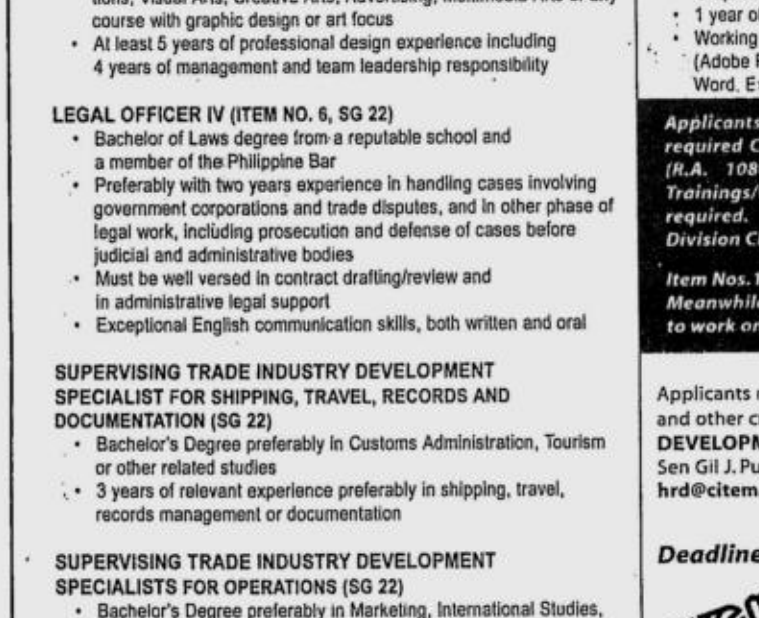
HR Focus



GLOBAL EXCELLENCE HUMAN RESOURCES ACADEMY INAUGURATION

The power of service excellence continuous with the opening of Global Excellence Human Resources Academy Inc that was inaugurated on June 14, 2006 at Rooms 306-308 TDS Building, #72 Kamias Road, Quezon City. Photo shown from the right corner Flordeliza Leong of Philippine Export Association, deputy general manager Lydia Cosuco of Philippine Tourism Authority, AIT-UP Dean Cora Rodriguez-Phd, Governor Leonida Ortiz of Philippine National Red Cross, Rafael S. Chico-Chair/CEO of Global Excellence, Director Cynthia Lazo of the Department of Tourism, Pacifico Maghacot-Quezon City Chief of Business Permit and Licensing Office, Engineer Jesse Dungca – Chair of Livelihood and Employment Committee of Quezon City Development Economic Council, James Guasch-General Manager of Pearl Garden Hotel, Emeterio Medran, Jr.-Global Finance Board of Adviser and Priscila Y. Carabeo – president/COO of Global Excellence Human Resources Academy Inc.

Effective supervision seminar set

HOW EFFECTIVE ARE YOUR SUPERvisors in leading your people? You will not realize the full potential of your business if your supervisors are average or poor. Train your leaders. Let them attend the very important seminar on Developing Your Supervisory Leadership slated on Aug. 31, 1 – 5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

NCO Group Manila helps people build lives and careers

NCO GROUP'S QUEZON CITY location began operations with just 50 people three years ago and has now grown to employ 2200 employees. This BPO is strategically located in the ELJCC Bldg inside the ABS-CBN Compound along Mother Ignacia Street. Many of NCO Group's employees report that their quality of life is enhanced as their place of work is close to their homes. Working together with Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and his great team of councilors, namely Councilor Rommel Abesamis (District 1), Councilor Eric Medina (District II), Councilor Bayani Hipol (District III) and Councilor Jorge "Bolet" Banal Jr. (District IV), NCO is bringing job fairs right in their respective Barangay halls. NCO Group has partnered up with the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) during these job fairs. PESO gathers all the resumes of the people who were not a match for a current opening at NCO and matches it with the available jobs in their database. NCO Group's Communication Skills Enhancement Seminar (CSES) gives free training to people who have the potential to work as a call center representative but need more communications training before being hired. One of the biggest job fairs NCO Group will host will be on Aug. 11, 12 and 19 at the 3rd Floor Activity Area of Ali Mall in Cubao, Quezon City from 10AM to 6PM, courtesy of Councilor Bolet Banal. Applicants just need to bring their resumes or bio-data coupled with their strong English language communication skills. NCO Group strives to develop people to become good employees, potential leaders and responsible citizens. NCO Group invites Quezon City residents to drop by one of the upcoming Barangay job fairs or stop by the ELJCC Bldg on the 4th floor during any week day to learn more about what NCO has to offer.

Top secrets of handling BIR audit set

FINALLY, A WORKSHOP THAT will reveal inside information on sure-fire ways to save money without compromising your integrity. Don't miss this very important event slated on Aug. 23, 24, and 25, 1 – 5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas. CPE Credits will be given to CPA's.
Topics include Day 1: Letter of Authority; First, Second and Third Notice; Responsibility of Bookkeepers, Accountants. Auditors and Company Officers; Day 2: Handling of Report of Investigation; Notice for Informal Conference; Preliminary and Final Assessment Notice; Day 3: BIR Subpoena Duces Tecum; DOJ Fiscal Duces Tecum; Preparing Counter Affidavit; Prepareation of Rejoinder; Fiscal Resolution; Ruling of Appeal to DOJ; etc. Registering for one day only is allowed, but people are encouraged to attend the whole program. The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Prof. Emy Maestro, CPA; Founder of Tax Accountant Society, the National Organization of BIR Accredited Tax Agents; Founding Chairman of Auditor ng Bayan; and author of 14 books on Accounting and Auditing. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information,/ reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

Labor chief launches dispute avoidance program

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment (DOLE) has launched efforts in preventing industrial conflict with the implementation of a mechanism that aims to resolve labor disputes at the plant level before the disputes could erupt into strikes and lockouts.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion issued on Friday (Aug. 11, 2006) DOLE Circular No. 1, series of 2006, providing for the DOLE's implementation of the administrative intervention for dispute avoidance (AIDA) geared at the settlement of potential or ongoing disputes to prevent the conflict from escalating into a strike or lockout.

Brion said that the AIDA mechanism entails the voluntary settlement of plant level disputes in which either or both the employer and the workers may voluntarily seek the intervention of the Labor and Employment Secretary in the settlement of any potential or ongoing dispute.

A potential or ongoing dispute refers to an active dispute that is not the subject of any complaint or notice of strike or lockout at the time when the request for intervention by the DOLE chief is made.

Brion clarified that the recourse is separate from the established dispute resolution modes of mediation, conciliation, and arbitration under the Labor Code.

He said that the mechanism would provide labor and management another alternative to voluntary modes of dispute resolution. Currently, disputing parties may voluntarily submit their dispute to the DOLE regional Director for mediation or to the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) for preventive mediation.

"The mechanism is part of our efforts to resolve plant level conflicts and ensure labor and management harmony, thereby, preventing the incidence of strikes and lockouts," Brion said.

Undersecretary Luzviminda Padilla said that upon receipt of the request for intervention, the Office of the Labor and Employment Secretary or the DOLE Regional Director will invite the involved parties to a conference.

The conference for requests coming from the National Capital Region, Regions 3 (Central Luzon), IV-A (Calabarzon), and IV-B (Mimaropa) will be held at Secretary Brion's office in Intramuros, Manila.

Meanwhile, the conference for requests coming from other regions will be conducted by the DOLE Regional Directors in behalf of the Secretary.

Padilla said that the Office of the Secretary or the Regional Director will proceed to mediate to resolve the dispute and bring the contesting parties to an agreement. If the mediation fails, either or both parties may avail themselves of the remedies provided by the Labor Code.

They may also submit their dispute to the Office of the Secretary for voluntary arbitration.

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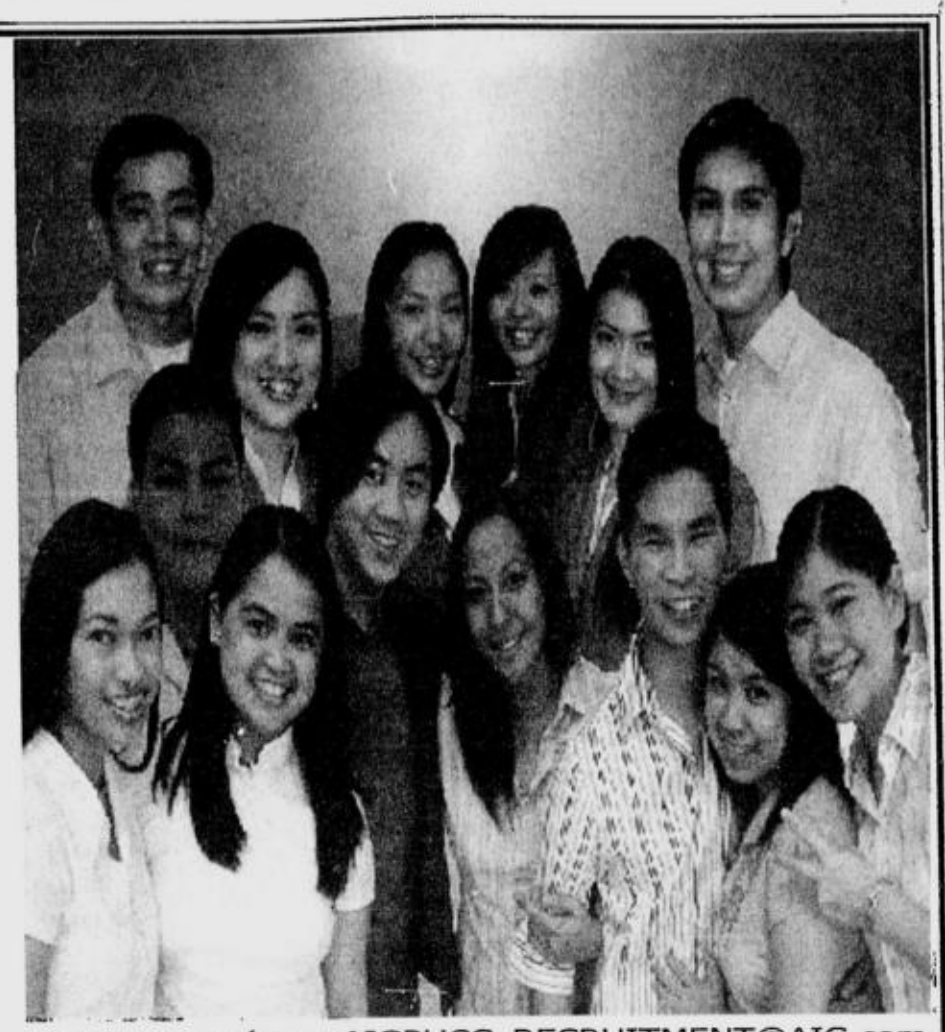
- Willing to work in Ortigas and be assigned primarily in **DAY SHIFTS**
- Computer literate

OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Administrative Assistant — **Items Processing Assistant**

Card Operations Assistant — **Accounting Assistant**

- Graduate of any business course
- With keen sense for details and willing to work long hours
- Computer literate



E-mail resumé to : AIGPHCC_RECRUITMENT@AIG.com

Applications may also be sent to:

Human Resource Division
16f San Miguel Properties Centre St., Francis Ave.
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

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PSI celebrates 20th anniversary

PURPOSEFUL Stewardship Institute is inviting all PSI Leadership seminar graduates to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of PSI Philosophy in the Philippines. The celebration, dubbed "Essence in Harmony", will be on Aug. 26, 4PM at the Eugenio Lopez Center, Antipolo City.

The affair is hosted by Purposeful Stewardship Institute, a training organization on personal empowerment through the teaching of personal leadership and success principles.

Registration is ongoing. For details, contact: Camille Martinez/Vickie T. Vicente at (02) 521-6038/ (02) 498-1770 (Manila); Anna So at (074) 619-1233 (Baguio); Doris Alcoseba at (032) 233-2543/ (0927) 9739619 (Cebu); Bonz Dolor at (0917) 8218291 (Region 4); Maimai Jalandoni at (0918) 9182244 (Iloilo); or Mayor Diding Madrona at (0918) 9414690 (Romblon).

For more registration and event details, visit www.psi20thanniversary.com, or email at psileadershipseminars@yahoo.com.

A fast growing Food Business is in need of competent individuals to fill up the following positions:

1 STORE SUPERVISOR (SS)
Place of assignment: Pamplona II, Las Piñas City

Responsibilities: Manpower planning, stock management, equipment and facilities management, inventory & sales report analysis, provide inputs for store improvement, & decision-making.

Qualifications: Single, Male or female, 22 to 28 yrs old, with pleasing personality, graduate of any business related course, at least 1 year experience in a food service industry, service-oriented w/ strong leadership qualities, w/ strong motivational skills, & willing to undergo training at company assigned outlet.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (AA)**
Place of assignment: Calauan, Laguna

Responsibilities: Ensure the implementation of Company Policies and Procedures, monitor & update employee masterfile, process payroll & other employee benefits, provide administrative support to different branches/units, & prepare administrative reports.

Qualifications: Single, Male or female, 22 to 28 yrs old, preferably graduate of any business related course, preferably w/ experience in administrative work, w/ strong motivational skills, can work with minimal supervision, & knowledge of relevant government regulations on personnel administration an advantage.

**For possible promotion to managerial position

2 ACCOUNTING SPECIALISTS (AS)
Place of assignment: Los Baños, Laguna / Calauan, Laguna

Qualifications: Male or female, not more than 35 yrs old, with at least 2 to 3 years work experience, knowledgeable in general & cost accounting, financial reporting, taxation and budget.

Interested applicants must submit their application letter, resume w/ 2x2 picture, transcript of records & contact numbers to:
VP-Finance/Administration
Bugong Roast Chicken
Vega Centre, Lopez Ave., Los Baños, Laguna

A Prestigious and reputable international school in Taguig City is in need of the following:

ADMISSIONS & STUDENT SERVICES HEAD - Degree holder (Major in Psychology or Education); Excellent people skills; Must be able to manage interaction with 200+ parents and applicant families; Superb written and oral English language and presentation skills; Previous work experience in a school environment a plus

FINANCE ASSISTANT – BS Accountancy Graduate; Can work with minimum supervision; 2-3 years; 30 years and above

CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY - Must be proficient in Microsoft Office Programs; Must possess good interpersonal skills; Work experience in a school system is an advantage

Interested applicants may send their application letter and their Curriculum Vitae in an envelope marked "Application : (POSITION)" to:
P.O. Box 1102, Makati Central Post Office
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or Email to
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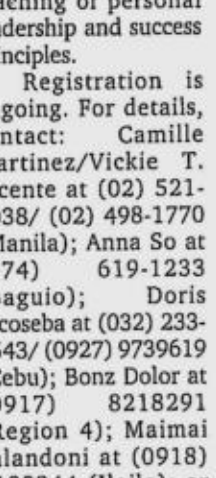

JOB Market
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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To assist in billing and collection, HR and internal operations of advertising agency

- With accounting background
- Can work independently and under pressure
- Must be meticulous and highly organized
- Personable; 20-25 years old
- High grade point average

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Corporate communication seminar and publishing services company needs young graduates for jobs in marketing and coordinating.

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A leading company in the service industry is in need of a highly-aggressive individuals:

PERSONNEL/ADMIN ASSISTANT

Assist in recruitment, scheduling & other personnel-related matters. Graduate of any business related course,with excellent written & oral communication skills (English & Tagalog), computer literate. Preferably female, with experience in handling personnel and office matters.

OUTLET SUPERVISOR

Supervises and trains Store Personnel. Female w/ excellent customer service and communication skills; College graduate with experience in same capacity.

Competitive package awaits the successful candidates.
Apply in person with your credentials at:
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Tel. No. 939-6358/70 or Fax Resumé to 930-5858.

NCO[SM]
GROUP

NCO Group Manila Recruitment Center
4th Floor ELJ Bldg., ABS-CBN Compound,
Mother Ignacia Ave., Quezon City

Email: manilarecruitment@ncogroup.com
Telephone: 981-7557 to 60

JOB FAIRS

August 14-17
9 AM to 5 PM

In cooperation with Mayor Sonny Belmonte,
Councilor Rommel Abesamis and
Councilor Jorge "Bolet" Banal.
We invite you to join
Quezon City NCO Group Call Center Job Fair
at the 3rd Floor Alimall, Cubao
on **August 18**

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A...

Technical Support Agent
Customer Service Agent
Directory Assistance Agent
Telemarketing Agent
Collections Agent
Trainer
Team Manager
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Help Desk Technician
Recruitment Assistant
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Telecom Provisioners Team Manager
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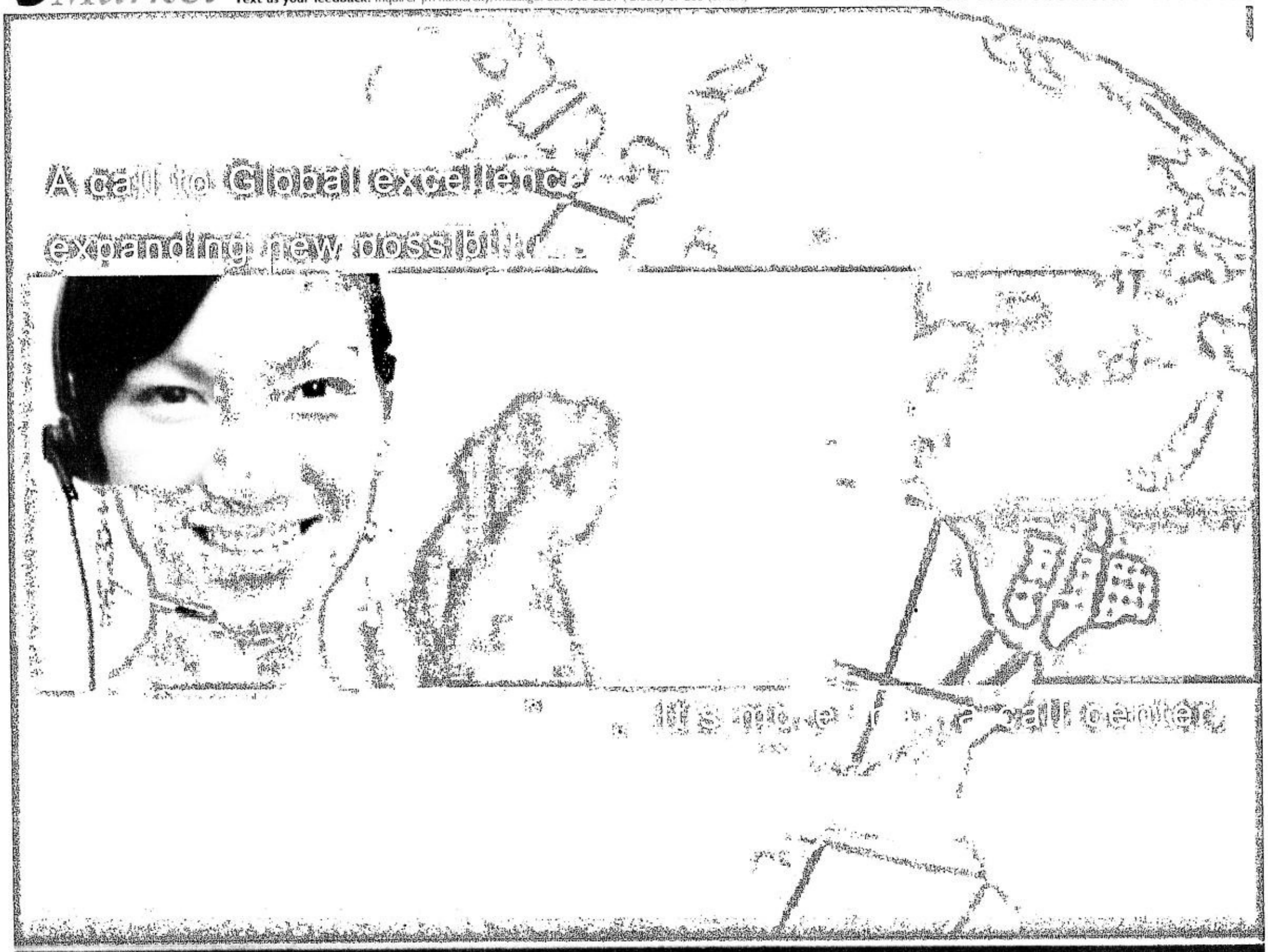
- Medical and Life Insurance - Loyalty Program -

*(** for agent positions)*



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Front Desk Associate
Telephony Software Engineer
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Email: Jobs@CallExpand.com

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JOB OPENINGS

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT
Graduate of BS Accountancy.
At least 1-3 years experience in bookkeeping, cost accounting and general accounting under a computerized environment.
With knowledge and experience in accounting, corporate finance, banking relations and risk management.
CPA is an advantage.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Graduate of any Information Technology or Engineering related courses.
At least 2-4 years relevant working experience on the said position.
Knowledgeable in Linux, Unix, Win Op Sys, Oracle admin and maintenance, sys performance workload analysis and tuning; installation, upgrade of SAP R/3 on windows/unix/linux setting up R/3 system landscape.
Able to support product issues in EDI interfaces in case of failures/ errors; SAP business connector maintenance in a clustered environment.
Strong SAP SRM implementation experience and completed at least one full implementation cycle.
Knowledge across functional areas (FICO, PM, CPL, or PS).
Very good understanding of SAP ABAP/4 tools and SAP V4.6 or higher; very good understanding of SAP Standards & Procedures; Strong knowledge of SQL and Oracle database server.
Strong knowledge and development skills in Coldfusion or Php, Javascripting, and CSS.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
Graduate of any Behavioral Science related course.
Advanced studies in Industrial Relations an advantage.
At least 2-3 years experience in a supervisory position and with knowledge and experience in employee relations.
At least 5 years experience in Labor Relations.
Proficient in Labor Laws.
Experience in handling CBA negotiations an advantage .

RESTAURANT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT
Graduate of BS Industrial Engineering or Food Technology.
At least 2-3 years related working experience for officer and specialist level and at least 1 year related working experience for assistant level.
Must be willing to do fieldwork and to work on different shifts.
Knowledgeable on conducting time and motion studies, designing and developing systems and processes and experience in manufacturing and systems processes.

TRAINING OFFICER/SPECIALIST
Graduate of HRM, Psychology ,Food Technology or any Business and Behavioral Science related courses.
Advanced studies in Industrial Relations an advantage.
Smart, analytical, articulate and has excellent communication skills.
Must be knowledgeable in designing training programs.
Has extensive exposure in Training & Development Activities (TNA, Design, Conducting Programs, Evaluation & Planning) and other related HR functions.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESUME WITH 2x2 PHOTO TO:
HR - RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
CHOWKING CORPORATE OFFICE
7TH FLOOR JOLLIBEE CENTER SAN MIGUEL, ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY
Or e-mail thru:
recruitmentph@chowking.net

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Male: 25-35 years old
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Must have good work experience in a management position in a luxury ship or yacht.
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Will train & supervise the activities of stewards, chef and assistant cook.
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WANTED: Technical Project Manager

Engineering Graduate • Telco and IP knowledge (Sun Servers, GSM, IS-634 and IOS) • Experience in data network deployment • GSM knowledge/ familiarity • Troubleshooting skills and abilities to debug and reproduce hardware, software, and networking problems including network performance and interoperability issues • Strong oral and written communication skills including technical document creation (Method of Procedure, Scope of Work, etc.) • Willing to travel as needed to perform job description duties • 5+ years of related telecommunications experience

WANTED: Electrician

Graduate of any vocational related courses • Possesses Certificate of Training from TESDA or MERALCO • Willing to be assigned in Cavite.

All interested please submit CVs/resumé with detailed job description:
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Or email your CVs & resume to:
olive.maintenance@olive.com.ph

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Republic Chemical Industries, Inc.

The Country's leading manufacturer of adhesives, sealants and packaging materials is looking for qualified individuals to fill in the following positions:

Warehouse Supervisor
(Southern Tagalog - Carmelray Industrial Park I, Calamba,Laguna)
Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering (Civil, chemical, Industrial), Business Studies/Administration/Management or equivalent.
- Required skill(s): Forklift Operation.
- Applicants must be **Male** and willing to work in Carmelray Industrial Park I, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna.
- Preferably supervisor / 5 yrs & up experienced employees specializing in warehouse operations.

Production Supervisor
(Southern Tagalog - Carmelray Industrial Park I, Calamba,Laguna)
Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering (Chemical, Industrial), Business Studies/Administration/Management or equivalent.
- Applicants must be Male willing to work in Calamba Laguna.
- Preferably supervisor / 5 yrs & up experienced employees specializing in Manufacturing of Adhesives/sealants/coating.

Product Associate
(National Capital Reg - Quezon City)
Requirements:
Assist in the development and execution of strategic marketing plans to meet brand business objectives, including revenue, profitability and market share goals.
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Sales & Marketing or equivalent.

R&D Chemist
(Southern Tagalog - Carmelray Industrial Park I, Calamba,Laguna)
Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Chemistry
- Applicants must be **Female** and willing to work in Carmelray Industrial Park,Canlubang,Calamba,Laguna.
- At least 6 yrs. experienced employees specializing in developing adhesive/ coatings.

Health & Safety Specialist
(Southern Tagalog - Carmelray Industrial Park I, Calamba,Laguna)
Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Required skill(s): Basic Life Support.
- Preferred skill(s): Occupational Health & Safety.
- Applicants must be **Male** and willing to work in Carmelray Industrial Park,Canlubang,Calamba,Laguna.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Healthcare - Practitioner/Nurses/Medical Asst or equivalent.

IT Technical Support
(National Capital Reg - Quezon City)
Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Computer Science/Information Technology or equivalent.
- Required skill(s): Basic Programming, PC Troubleshooting, LAN.
- Applicants must be Male and willing to work in Quezon City.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in IT/Computer - Network/ System/Database Admin or equivalent.

Other Vacancies:
Accounting Staff (NCR)
General Services Coordinator (NCR & Canlubang, Laguna)
Warehouse Clerk (Canlubang, Laguna)
OJT
Purchasing OJT – NCR (Supply Chain Courses)
- Will assist purchasing staff in her day to day activities.

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Please check your e-mail regularly for any correspondence regarding your application

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A multinational Executive Search firm which specializes in the provision of high quality executive search with offices in Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore is in need of topnotch personnel to fill up key positions for our expansion here in the Philippines:

I. GENERAL MANAGER
- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree and at least 6 years of relevant working experience. A Master's degree is preferred but not required.
- Occupying a senior management position, preferably in executive and manpower search, specializing in Human Resources or its equivalent.
- Candidate must have effective leadership and management skills, articulate and must have a good command of the English Language (both oral and written).

II. RESEARCH OFFICER
- Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science, Psychology, Human Resources Management or other relevant course. Postgraduate studies in Industrial Relations or equivalent training an advantage
- At least two (2) years of relevant working experience as a supervisor in all facets of human resource management functions
- Must have a working knowledge in preparing, maintaining or improving processes and procedures involving recruitment, client report/ feedback systems, applicant/ candidate sourcing.

III. CORPORATE WEB DEVELOPER
- Candidate must possess at least a College Degree in Information Technology or any equivalent course with at least two (2) years related work experience.
- Knowledgeable in developing intranet and internet web-based applications, MS SQL Server 2000, Oracle 9i, ASP.Net, VB.Net, PHP, VBScript, CSS, Visual Studio 6, SQL programming, Dreamweaver and Photoshop.
- Sample works required. Please provide link to online portfolio.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resume with 2x2 pictures to
IARFC c/o Ms. Jean Oclarino
9th Floor, Rufino Plaza Bldg., Ayala Ave. corner V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, 1226 Philippines
Email: roussosphils@yahoo.com.ph

A Travel Management Company that caters to Corporate Business Travel is in need of:

Travel Counselors
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Minimum Qualifications:
College Graduate
Good communication skills
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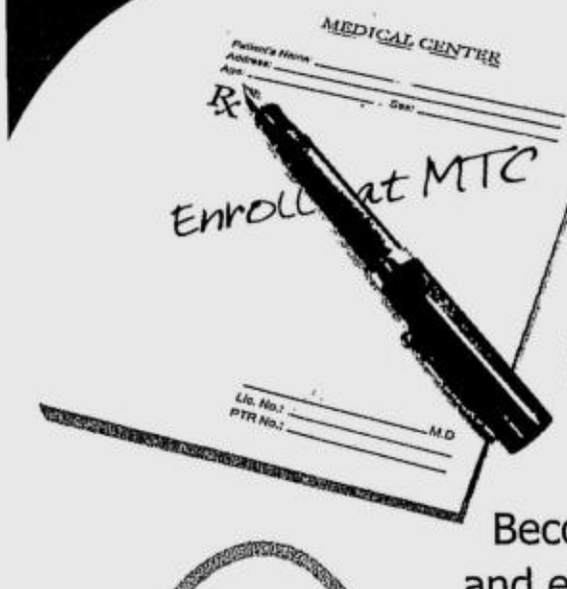

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No. 43 De Vera St., Roosevelt Avenue, San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City
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Where is the promised increase after one year of work?

By Tita Datu Puangco

I'M A SIMPLE OFFICE STAFF from one of the prestigious automobile dealers in Metro Manila. I started working January last year. Before I reported for work, I remember what the HR Assistant told me during the orientation. She told me that after a year in the company I would have a salary increase. However, I have been working with the company for almost one year and six months and no increase has been granted to me. The company has not even presented any papers as proof that I'm a regular employee.

I already asked the Human Resource Department regarding this matter but they could not give me concrete answers. According to them, the increase will be granted after the performance appraisal. As far as I know, I have undergone two performance appraisals—the first one was for regularization and the other one for the yearly appraisal.

According to my immediate supervisor, I am one of the best employees and he is always telling me that I would be successful someday. He often adds, "keep up the good work." Honestly, I really love my work and my boss. But there is a question in my mind, "if I were a good employee and I have a good performance rating, why can't they grant my salary increase?"

Until now, my basic pay is minimum. The P25 increase for minimum wager earners put in effect last July 11 was not granted to us. Many of us questioned management for not granting the P25 increase. They just stayed quiet on this issue. Because of this, I'm thinking of looking for another job.

I don't want to give up my job because I'm enjoying what I'm doing, but how can I support myself and my family with a condition like this. Do I have to wait or do I have to look for another job? I also want to know why there is a company that cannot grant the employees' salary increase after one year of service. Could you please advise me how to handle a situation like this?

Pretty Questionable

Advice: For the Anxious Person at Work

Your problem is a case of a promise made by a human resource assistant that you will get an increase after one year of service. The increase has not been given to you. Frankly, the HR Assistant may not have the authority to give you an increase after one year of service. You cannot count on his/her word.

If you truly enjoy your job and desire to stay, I suggest you talk to your supervisor. You supervisor is, in fact, the line human resource manager who can make the increase possible for you. Talk to him in truth and in candor but also with respect and courtesy. Share with him the promise that was made to you when you were hired. If, after this conversation, he does not make the move to recommend you for an increase, then you can start to look for another job. He may share with you information about the company that you may not be privy to.

Knowing how tough the job market is today, I suggest you hold on to your job while exploring other options. If you have to go for an interview outside the office, file for a vacation leave, so that you remain ethical as you pursue your dream job.

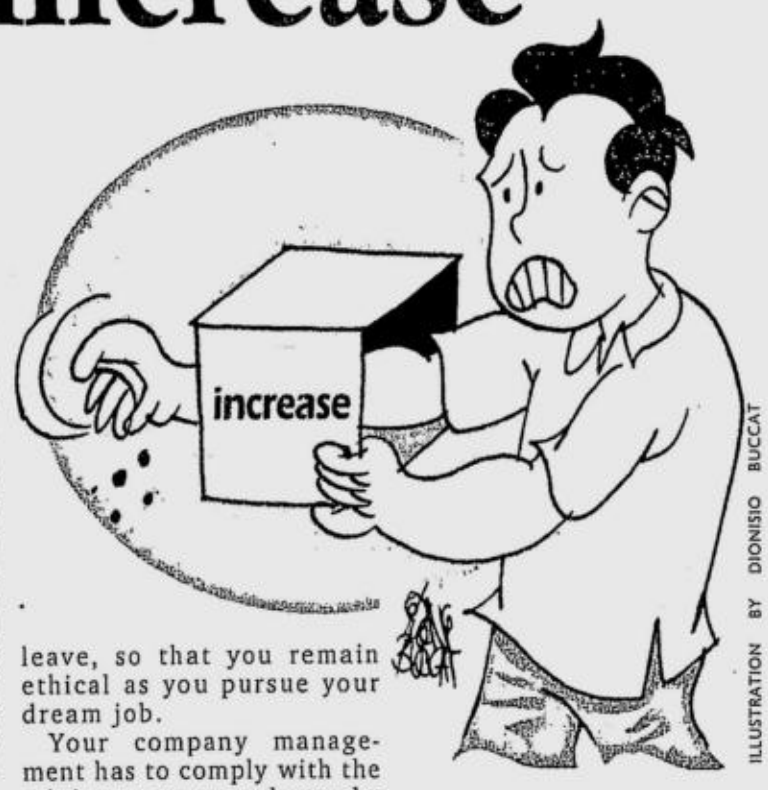

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Your company management has to comply with the minimum wage and may be sourcing for funds to make this happen. With the skyrocketing cost of gas, car sales are expectedly down. The situation may be creating cash flow problems. My suggestion is for you to talk to your boss. Meantime, remain hopeful and continue to deliver quality work. God bless you.

(The author is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. E-mail feedback to advice@ancillaedc .com.ph or fax 892-2902. You may also check Ms Puangco's blog at www.pinoyatwork.livejournal.com. For other inquiries, please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)

'I want to get out of my job now'

I AM WORKING FULL-TIME as a school researcher and part-time teacher in a provincial college. For several reasons, I really want to get out of this job.

I can't feel any professional or personal fulfillment in this job. The pay is low and organizational growth is based mostly on patronage. I have a master's degree in Resource Management, but it has not enhanced my career chances. I am an extrovert and I love writing. I was a development worker with NGOs but was forced to take on a more permanent, albeit low-paying job in this school. I am happiest when interacting with people and I want to be a trainer or in the human resource or OD kind of job.

My part-time teaching job, which pays low, helps me keep my wits. How can I make a career change? I am in my mid-40s and I know I have to do something before I burn myself out.

Sunshine

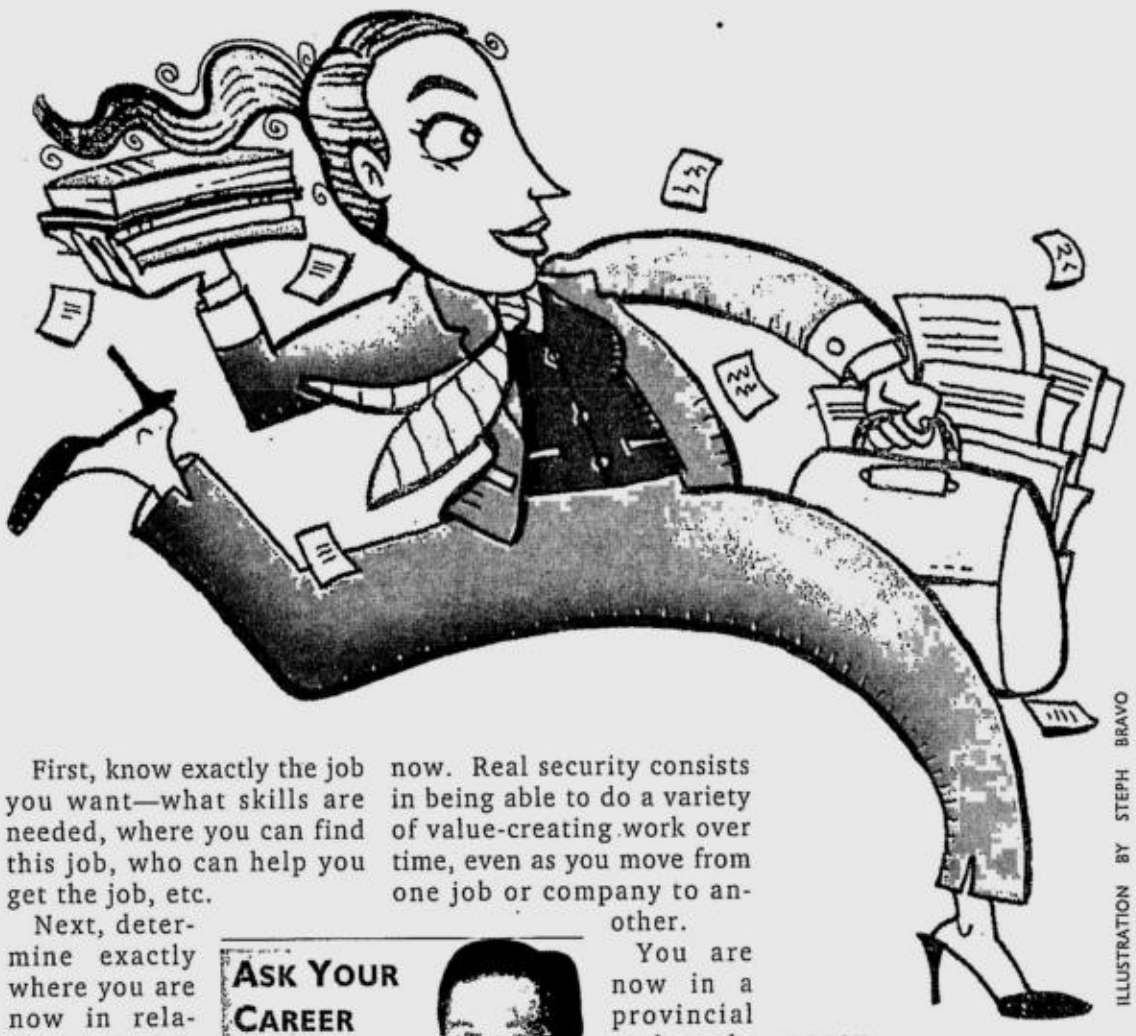

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Ask Your Career Counselor: Ernie O. Cecilia

Congratulations. You know what you like and dislike—others just plod aimlessly everyday, not knowing why or where they want to go.

You seem to have a clear dream. All it takes is to plan how to get there. Then, just as the ad says, "Just do it."

What you want

You seem to know what you want—a fulfilling job. But you also need a good pay. Sometimes, they don't go together. Those who have found their passion, however, enjoy the best of both worlds—good pay and fulfilling job.

Transition

If you don't like research and desk-bound jobs, find a way to get another type of job. As I always advise readers, "Love it or leave it." But it's easier said than done, especially if you can't be without a regular pay for sometime.

Perhaps, you must plan a career transition. Let me simplify it for you.

First, know exactly the job you want—what skills are needed, where you can find this job, who can help you get the job, etc.

Next, determine exactly where you are now in relation to the job you want—your competencies, experiences, etc. Understand the gaps you need to fill in order to qualify for the job.

Then, gear up for the job - training, experiences, further studies if needed, transition jobs, etc. Attend seminars, get a mentor, work part-time or as trainee and get the experience you need.

When you think you are prepared for the career shift, apply with the right companies. If you want big bucks as an employee, look for organizations that pay big money to employees. Then, go into your choice positions that pay big money.

Caution

I must have oversimplified it. In reality, career shifts are difficult to make, especially when you are in your mid-40s. The workplace today is more complicated. It looks for multi-skilled people who can create value for the customers. A master's degree does not guarantee employability now. Real security consists in being able to do a variety of value-creating work over time, even as you move from one job or company to another.

You are now in a provincial school. You can perhaps interest some local companies to try you out as a trainer or trainee. Find out what kind of people they need, develop your skills, get visible, write a tailor-fit resumé that sells.

I have seen teachers who successfully moved over as corporate trainers. That seems like a logical switch. But, they usually bring in to their new jobs a variety of skills other than teaching, including a more open and flexible mind.

Increase your income

Even as you prepare yourself to find your dream job, find other sources of income. Unless you move to the highest echelon in a company, you might find that income from employment is usually inadequate. Find other streams of income, if you want to have more money. Being frugal or spending less will not make you rich. To make more money, make your money work for you. It is usually harder to work for money.

Make your move

If you feel you can't spend another day in your present job, it's an indication that you really have to move. Is it risky? Perhaps, it is. Have backup plans or other career options. But the real risk lies in not knowing what it takes to succeed. So, gear up soonest, and make that career switch. If you can't leave, tone down your expectations from your present job. Love your work now—the next could be worse.

(Public service announcement: "Tiripon 2006, a grand alumni homecoming of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City, will be held on Sept. 9. Alumni from all levels are invited to attend. Please e-mail me for details.)

(The author is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. Mr. Cecilia was the president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia @yahoo .com.)

'Wanna live forever?'

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

A FEW INDIVIDUALS HAVE MERITED THROUGH THEIR WORKS OR particular achievement—an invention, a scientific theory, a system of governance, a formula for success of sorts, or anything of significance to individuals and/or society—a living memory in the minds and hearts of peoples of various ages. Monuments, shrines or parks are built to make them "live" forever. Yet, these great personalities do not necessarily live for ever in the way Jesus speaks of in today's Gospel; they live only for as long as mortal beings keep them in their memory. Jesus claims that He is the "living bread" who can give true eternal life.

The good news is that anyone, even a simple worker who tries his best to do his job as perfectly as he can, even if he is not assured of the reward of renown after his earthly life, can enjoy the prize of everlasting life by believing in Jesus and in His words and also receiving His Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Some workers do make the habit of participating daily in the Eucharistic celebration as part of their daily routine. Many others make the Sunday Mass as their weekly offering to God all they have done in the past week; still, others offer the works of the coming week to the Lord who gives Himself in the Sunday Eucharist.

These workers who "work" to make the Eucharist an integral part of their life and slowly put Jesus, the Bread of Life, as the "center" of their existence will gain not only their earthly survival but above all, also their heavenly reward.

"Wanna live forever?" You can, if you only believe in Jesus' words! (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Reflections for the Working Soul

Bread for life

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

"BREAD" IS A BIG WORD IN THE WORKPLACE. IT MEANS NOT ONLY "food" but also "money." The one who works to feed the family is called the "breadwinner." But breadwinner or not, everybody works for "bread,"correct? (All right, all right, not only for bread! Many work for bread plus fulfillment, self-expression, prestige, et al., but nonetheless, everybody who works gets "bread," whether he's Juan de la Cruz or Bill Gates). And this bread is supposed to keep your body and soul together while you're still a citizen of this planet.

So what's Jesus' brand of "bread" that's supposed to make you live forever got to do with your work? Why drag something as otherworldly as that kind of bread into your world that's as physical as paychecks, sick leaves and bundy clocks?

Because we also have hungers that are felt not in the stomach but in that indefinable place that separates us from mere animals.

The hunger to be one with the Divine is satisfied by embracing the mystery that the Eucharist is. It "resurrects" Jesus in oneself and enables one to see Jesus in others. "In others" includes first and foremost the people we interact with during most of our waking hours—the people in the workplace.

Can you imagine seeing Jesus in each one of your coworkers? How would you treat them thinking that in their love for you they forgave your sins and died on the cross for you? The "bread" that Jesus gives is enfleshed in us "for the life of the world." It's what keeps the world spinning; it's what gives meaning to our work. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

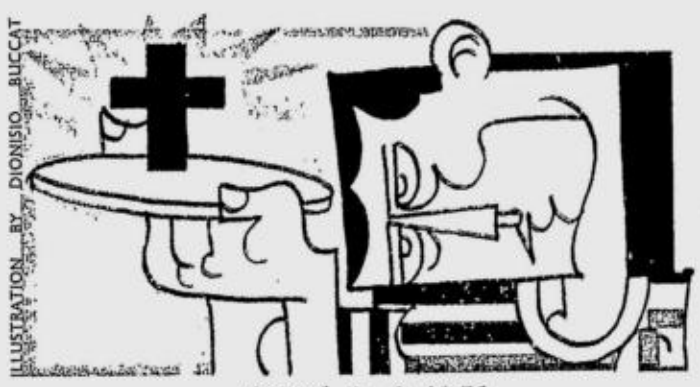

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel Jn. 6: 41-51

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

AUGUST 13, 2006

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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES

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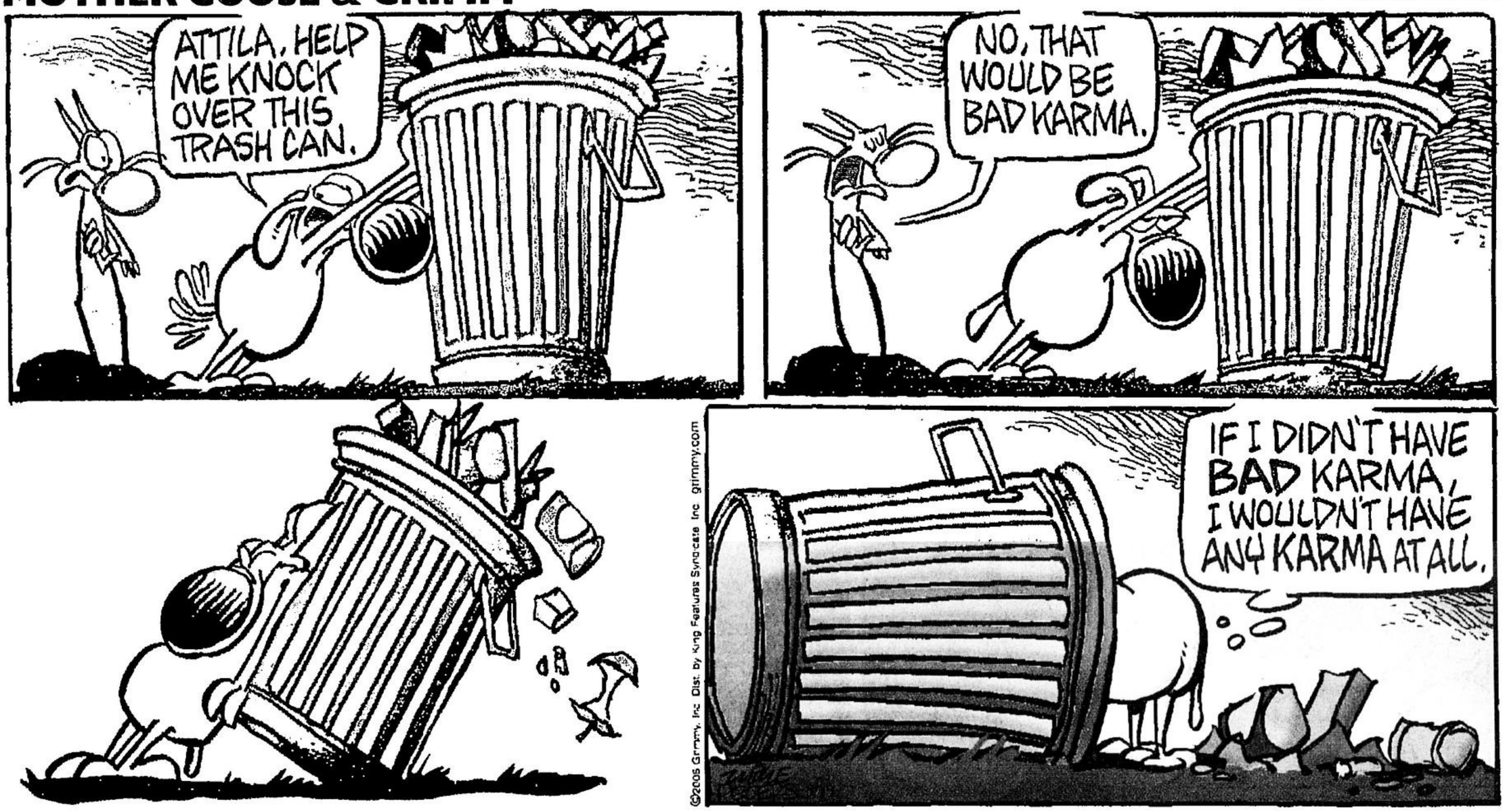

ZITS

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INDAY WANDA

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LEAVES of GLAZ

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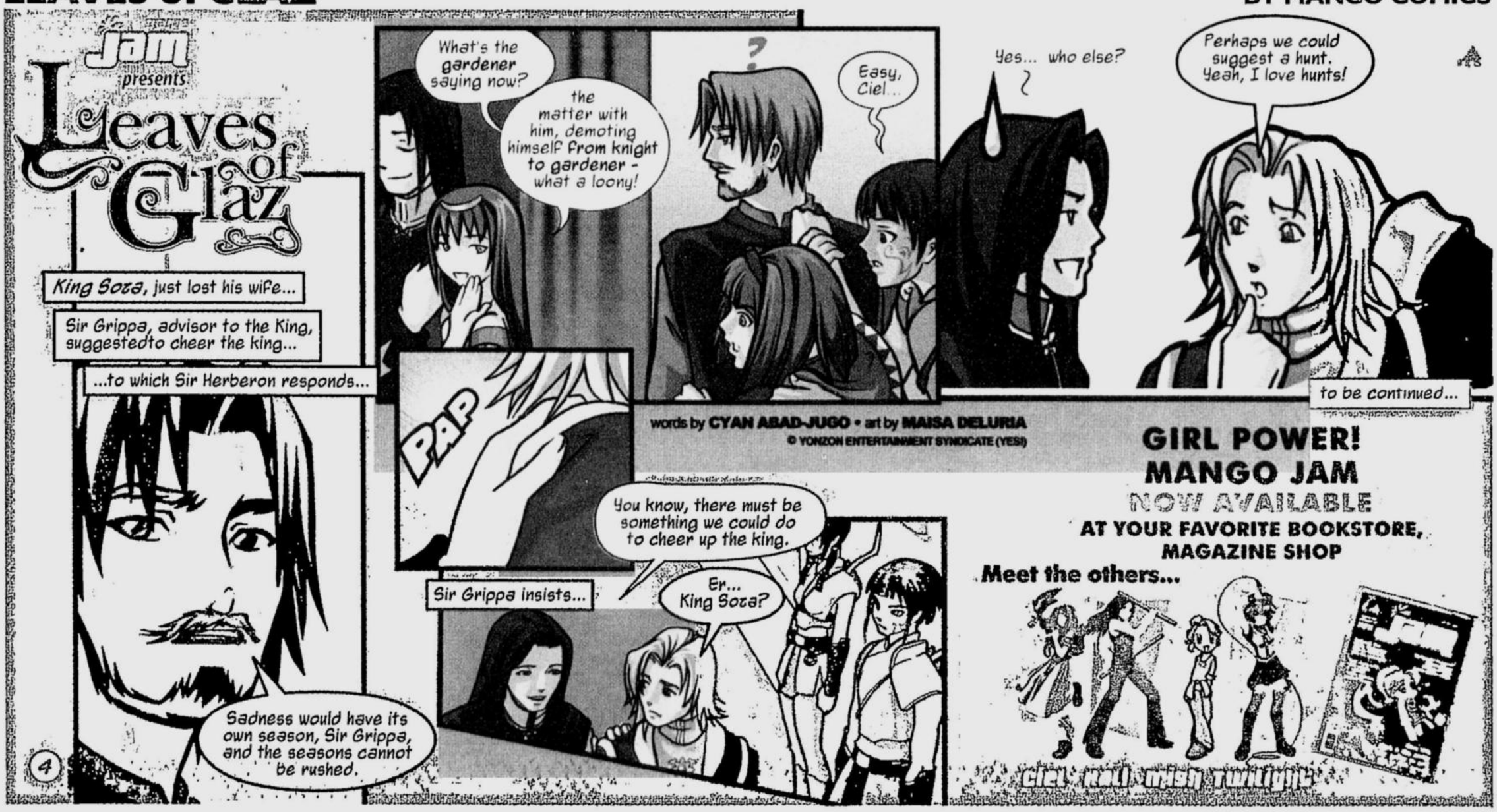

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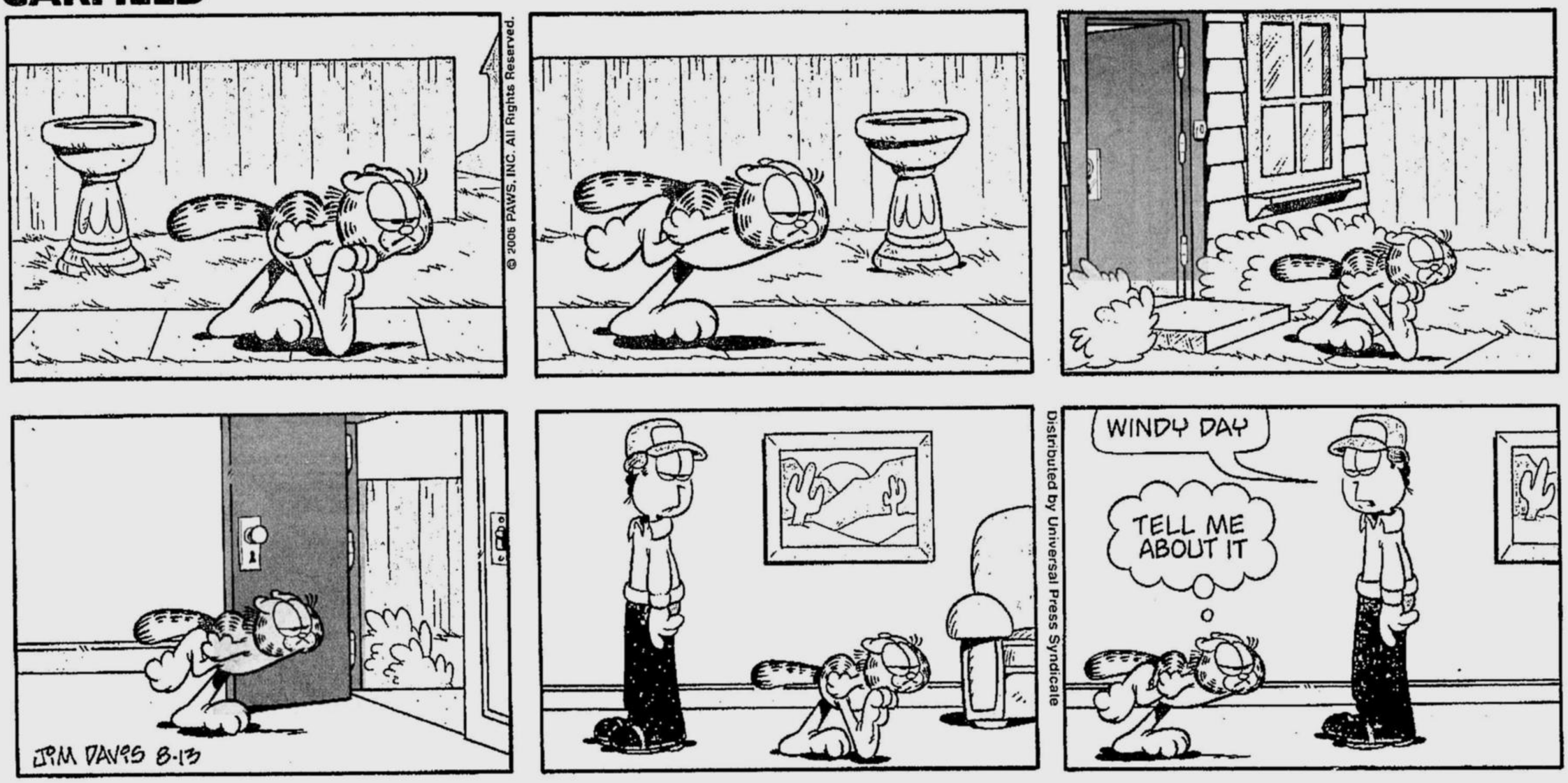
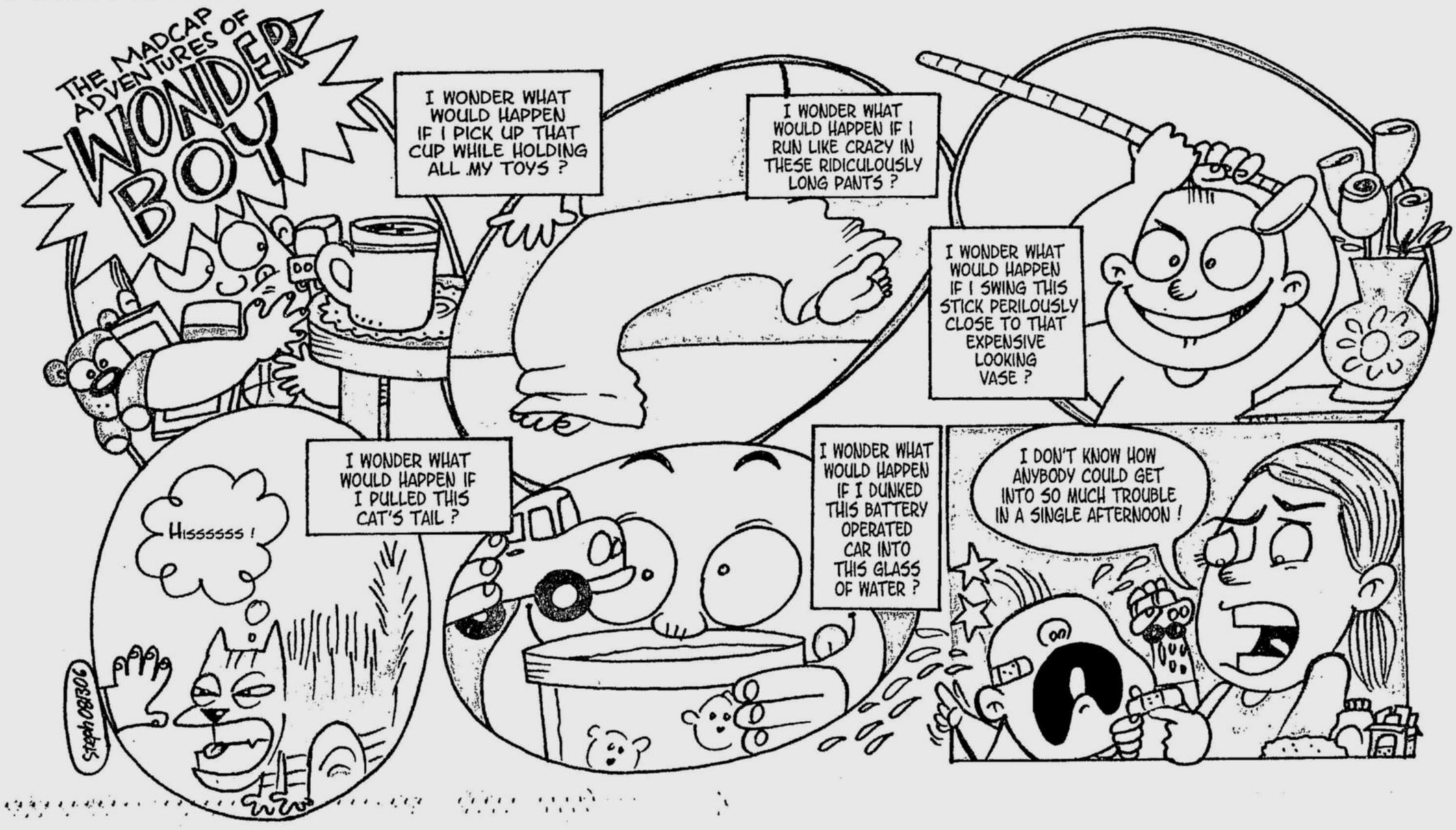


FULL HOUSE

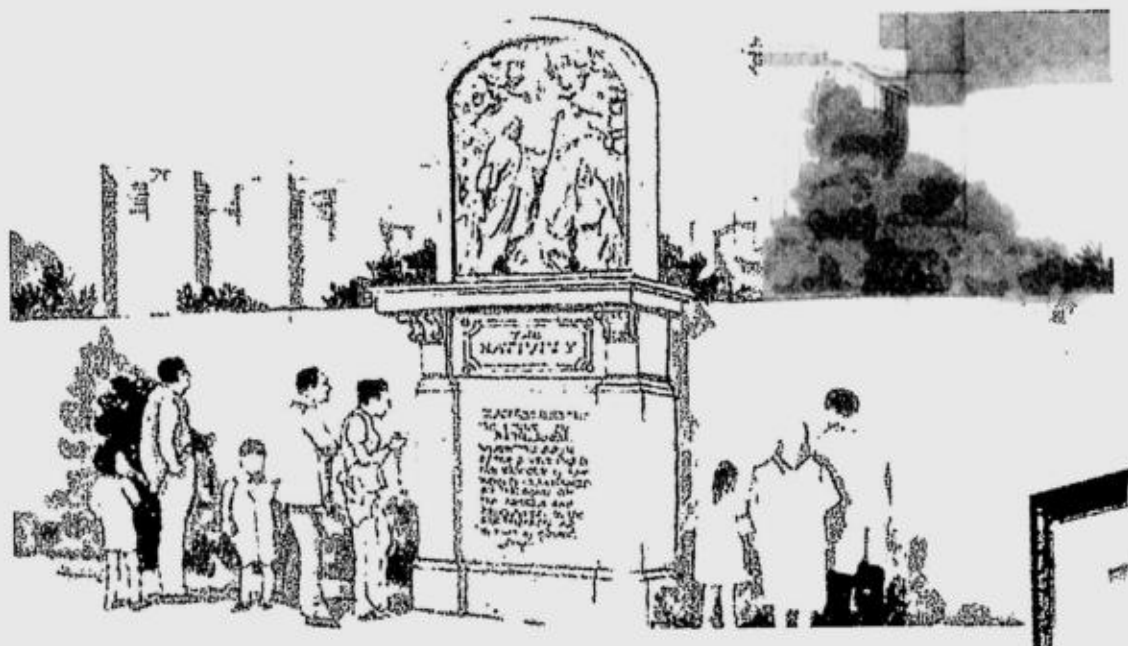
BY STEPH BRAVO



August 13, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

by Corazon A. Ong

Publisher Louie Reyes is a man of faith as well as a man of books. That's why he is determined to complete what his friend, the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, envisioned: a network of 20 shrines to Mama Mary



Holy route. An artist's rendition of a completed shrine, this one at the entrance of Tiendesitas

This businessman is seeing the Cardinal's pet project through

"MAN of little faith" was how the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin would admonish Louie Reyes, a friend of many years, because Louie would almost always bewail the lack of funds for projects that the Cardinal would ask him to undertake.

"I remember one time after I voiced my complaint, he told me: 'You man of little faith, go to the Blessed Sacrament and pray. If God wants this project to be done, there will always be a way.' Once the Cardinal sets his mind on a particular project, it is almost always good as done. His faith is that strong," Louie said.

That faith must have rubbed off on Louie because more than a year after Sin passed away, Louie is still bent on finishing the Way of Mary Shrines, a pet project of the Cardinal, lack of funds notwithstanding. "Cardinal Sin taught me to have unwavering faith in the Virgin Mary. To finish the remaining 14 shrines and to have them blessed on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8 seems to be an impossible dream at this point. But deep in my heart, I know and believe firmly that if God wills it, it will be done," Louie said.

The project calls for the building of 20 shrines of bas relief images representing the 20 mysteries of the holy rosary from the Edsa Shrine to the Antipolo Cathedral—a stretch of 14 kilometers covering Mandaluyong, Pasig, Taytay and Antipolo, popularly known as the Alay Lakad route.

Six have so far been completed (five joyful mysteries and one glorious): Annunciation (located at Edsa Shrine), Visitation (in front of Ortigas Building, corner Meralco Avenue), Nativity (entrance to Tiendesitas), Presentation at the Temple (in front of FF Cruz Compound), Finding of the Child Jesus (in front of Rosario Church) and Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (at the patio of Antipolo Cathedral). "At P400,000 per shrine, we still have a long way to go. Somebody approached me to say he was willing to donate P500,000 but he wanted his name as donor to appear on the shrine. Much as I needed the money, I had to decline the offer because the Cardinal's wish was clear—the shrines are for the people and not to be credited to any single individual," Louie said.

Family business

The youngest in a family of nine, Louie is a grandson of Severino "Lola Basyang" Reyes. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Santo Tomas, cum laude, he taught journalism for about six years, then went full time helping in the family's publishing business, Reyes Publishing Inc., which he currently heads. "Our family started publishing comics, then gradually went into book publishing. Then, on the instigation of Cardinal Sin, we started printing in pocket book form the homilies and reflections of Filipino priests here and abroad. We also do typesetting jobs for foreign publishers," he said.

A respected publisher, Louie is credited with organizing the first Philippine Book Fair in New York and San Francisco in 1978, and has attended numerous seminars, workshops and conferences on book publishing here and abroad. His contributions to the book publishing industry have been recognized many times, such as when he received a Catholic Mass Media Award in 1986 and the Legacy Award given by the Book Development Association of the Philippines in 2004. He was also the recipient of the Papal Award (Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice) in 2002.

If there's one trait that describes Louie, it would be his being frank in saying what he thinks or feels—sometimes to the discomfiture of his family. An elder sister recalled the time they were invited to a party by a neighbor. "I and another sister were already teen-agers then, and Louie about seven. *Pumuporma na siyempre kami pero nasira ang porma namin dahil kay* Louie. *Nagsilbi kasi ng* salad *tapos pagtikim ni* Louie, *ayaw niya ng lasa. 'Bakit ganito ang* salad? *Hindi ganito ang gawa sa bahay namin.' E, ang lakas-lakas ng boses niya. Talagang napahiya kami.* (We were trying to look charming and attract the attention of some boys but all our efforts fell flat because of Louie. When salad was served, he tasted it and did not like it at all. 'Why does this salad taste like this? We don't make salad this way in our house.' He said it in a very loud voice so we really got embarrassed). I think that was the last time we got invited by the said neighbor to their house. Louie has always been outspoken, and how he loves to talk, but then, he has the knack also for making people listen, like when he became a much-sought after speaker for the Cursillo movement in the '60s and '70s."

His popularity, however, went to his head. "Then one day, after thinking things over, I decided to give it all up. Because I realized that I was glorifying myself more than I was glorifying God," he said candidly.

Calling a spade a spade

Louie's candor, a trait he shares with the late Cardinal Sin, must have endeared him to the latter and cemented their friendship. "Cardinal Sin's candor and sincerity are infectious. And, he loves to call a spade, a spade," Louie said. Both also love to talk.

The Way of Mary Shrines project was an offshoot of a favorite topic of conversation Louie had with the Cardinal many, many years ago. "During the war, the image of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage was brought to Quiapo Church for temporary refuge. It was returned to Antipolo on April 30, 1945 after Liberation. Then on April 30, 1978 —the date when the yearly pilgrimage to Antipolo officially started—the parish of Quiapo requested Antipolo to bring Our Lady of Good Voyage to Quiapo. After the 8 p.m. Mass, it was brought right back to Antipolo. Every year thereafter, the activity would catch fire with more and more people joining the pilgrimage. Cardinal Sin and I would often talk about the heavy turnout of Antipolo devotees as well as the need to have some stops for the people to rest or pray along the way, just like what they have in Lourdes and Fatima. I thought that was that and had forgotten all about it because I was doing other things for him: the Catholic Authors Award, the Pray the Rosary Movement, his golf tournament, the Catholic Book Fair, etc. Until one morning, when I went to Villa San Miguel, I was met by Fr. Jun Sescon and was told that the Cardinal wanted to see me for a new project he had in mind. "Build some pilgrim shrines and make them permanent," the Cardinal told Louie. Each shrine would be a prayer reminder, a piece of heaven where, according to Fr. Catalino Arevalo, whom Cardinal Sin consulted before initiating the project, "Even without praying, just looking at Mama Mary would be enough to enrich the spirit."

Too busy

"When I learned that the project would run smack into Ortigas, I immediately objected: 'That place is too busy. Where can we build it in that area?' Do you know what the Cardinal said? 'That is where Mother Mary belongs.' End of argument," Louie said.

The problem of funding, of course, Sin tried to solve by arranging a meeting between Louie and a group of prominent businessmen. Louie laid out the plans and was told to go ahead, look for an artist and not to worry about financing because the businessmen would take care of it. So off he went to Paete, known for its carvers, to look for an artist, but he failed to find one. "No single artist would do all 20 shrines but we want one style only. Joey Amistoso, the project's architect who designed the pedestals, suggested Nemi Miranda and a few other artists. We decided on Nemi Miranda because he did the mural at Edsa Shrine and the retablo at Antipolo Church. Besides which, Nemi said he can do all. An artist for all the 20 shrines—this, by itself, is the only one of its kind in the world."

Two shrines—the first (Annunciation in Edsa Shrine) and the last (Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Antipolo)—were finished last year before Sin passed away, but he could only bless the first shrine, given his already weak condition.

Divine intervention

Four more shrines were completed and blessed April 30 this year, thanks to the help of donors like the Ortigas family and businessman Ricardo Pascua, Sr. Unfortunately, however, not all those who promised to help support the project did. "Maybe this is a blessing in disguise, a divine intervention because with many of the first proponents shying away, the ordinary folk is now given the chance to help finish the project," Louie said.

"As a nation consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we should all join hands in building The Way of Mary, a tribute to the legacy of Cardinal Sin, and a very explicit demonstration of our devotion to Mother Mary. It is our desire to democratize the donation and it is so easy to help. Simply text ON<space>ROSARY and send it to 2600," he added.

With some 35 million Filipino cell phone owners, many of whom are Marian devotees, Louie believes that on December 8, the rest of the 14 shrines would have been finished and ready to be blessed. "I don't know where or how but the money will come. God, after all, works in many, many mysterious ways." Q

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ERRATUM

In the cover story, "This priest wants to be the last Filipino out of Beirut," published on August 6, 2006 in the Sunday INQUIRER Magazine, the name of Father Agustin Advincula's mother should be Concepcion, not Constancia. Because she goes by her nickname Titang, the author mistakenly thought Constancia was her full name.

Kapoteng Tubig

Gusto ko ng kapoteng tubig
maligamgam, malinaw. Tubig
na hulma sa hugis ko, kakambal
ng mukha, mga bisig,
ang kasalimuotan
ng maalong buhok.

Gaya-gayang tubig sa nanginginig
kong paghakbang, pumapara
ng maliliap na taxi. Sabay yumayapos
at kumakanlong laban sa di-mabibilang,
kati-katiting na pinilakang karayom.
Ipinagtatagpo muli ako sa tubig pero
hindi nagbabalik sa isa't isa.

Kapoteng patuloy akong binabasa
ikinukubli sa pagbuhos na ito
ng mumunting pagsabog sa aspalto,
pambobomba sa mga dahon
sa puno, sa lupa.

Gusto ko ng kapoteng
tubig na pumapagaspas sa hangin,
dumadaloy hanggang sa ilalim
ng mga tuhod, sinasahod
ng mga baradong pusali.

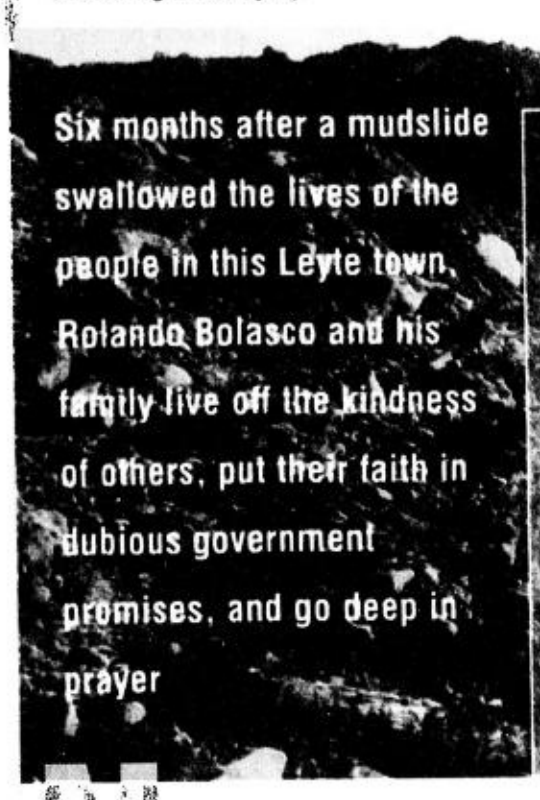
Gusto ko ng kapoteng tubig,
init na napapawi, kasabay kong maglakad
maghanap ng masisilungan, tumuklas
ng malalamig na bisig, ng mangingibig.

Zosimo Quibilan, Jr.

Survivors' Tales

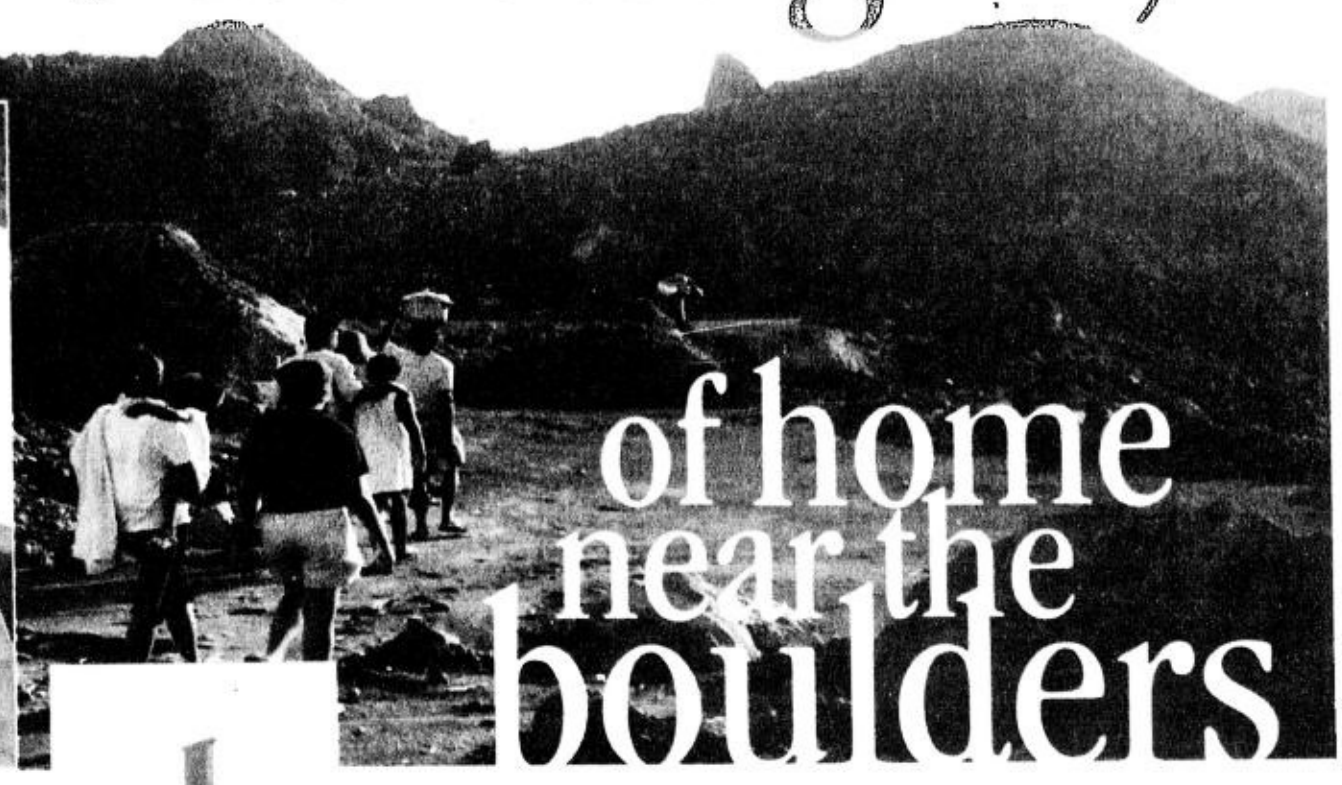
Dreaming of a life after Guinsaugon, of home near the boulders

text and photographs by Maria Congee S. Gomez



Six months after a mudslide swallowed the lives of the people in this Leyte town, Rolando Bolasco and his family live off the kindness of others, put their faith in dubious government promises, and go deep in prayer

Ghost town: Boulders still litter the landscape where the town of St. Bernard used to be; inset, Rolando Bolasco relied on his faith to see him through the tragedy



NO ONE suspected it was coming—not even the local seers, townsfolk say.

Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard town, in the southern part of Leyte province, was battered with heavy rains for two weeks. Its estimated population, between 3,000 and 4,000 people, agree that this was nothing new, as far as their history of volatile weather conditions is concerned. Another rainy morning would not have provoked speculation. Within a few seconds, however, disaster struck. Initial reports stated that 2,000 people were buried alive under 40 feet of mud. There were 206 children and 40 teachers buried in an elementary school; 84 bodies were recovered, while relatives reported 1,371 people still missing.

For those fortunate enough to survive, it was another nightmare to have to narrate their harrowing experiences. Among them was 32-year-old Rolando Bolasco, who described his fate, in Filipino, as "sheer luck." He could have been listed among the missing, had it not been for Divine Providence, he said.

The unrecovered

Bolasco narrates his ordeal with a smattering of Waray. The survivors in his family include mother Zosima, brothers Jeffrey and Primitivo and his wife More Magallanes, Rolando's wife Chona, and daughter 21-month-old Shiela Mae. The bodies of other members of the family have yet to be recovered. His eldest daughter, Marichu, 14, could have lived had she gone with him to the basketball court, or with her mother.

Although finding comfort in the thought that his loved ones are now in the care of God, Bolasco cannot help but miss them terribly. He describes his situation as a new lease on life, even when talking about a future that is beyond his grasp. He hatches a major plan to go back to Guinsaugon to resettle. Talks on relocation take forever, he says, crossing his fingers and hoping the housing program promised them is for real.

Not that Bolasco is bored staying at Cristo Rey Regional High School in St. Bernard. But each time he eyes his surroundings, he sees an expanse of prevailing despair. He sees Chona, who is starting a fire to cook the evening's meals, and feels a tinge of homesickness.

The Bolascos occupy two separate rooms built of plywood, coco lumber and galvanized sheets. Power has been installed on a test-run basis. A pit has been dug, and a curfew is strictly observed.

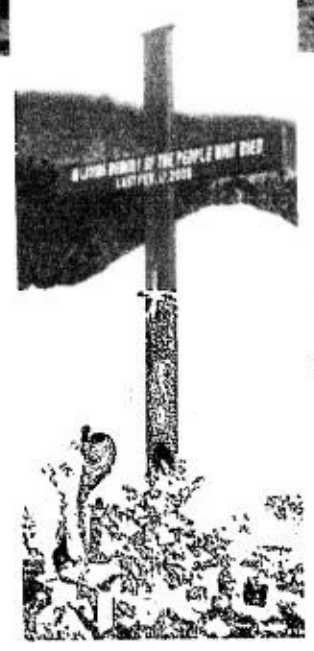
Impromptu gatherings

At night, impromptu gatherings of males are a common sight. This is when they share glasses of *tuba* (coco wine) or heart-wrenching stories of survival. No one goes wildly overboard, Bolasco ascertains. "We simply want the sad stories off our chests, allowing the good feelings to come in." The 50 families or more at Cristo Rey are thankful to the Daughters of Charity for taking good care of their needs from the start; otherwise, it could have been a total mess, ths rebuilding of their lives.

On this late Sunday afternoon, Bolasco is noticeably in a reminiscing mood. Interviews with survivors are already being discouraged, due to the psychological pressure that such questioning often produces.

Bolasco profusely thanks his visitors, his melancholic face registering the intense pain he has gone through. He can talk now, he says, because he knows he is getting over what has been his worst nightmare. "Otherwise, I'd be staring blankly at all of you, unable to say a word," he says.

Bolasco recalls what happened shortly after breakfast. He instructed Chona to bring Shiela Mae to the doctor in St. Bernard proper; her fever had been high for a couple of days, and he suspected something else could be wrong.



In memoriam: A wooden cross stands in the heart of the village, a few meters from where the elementary school used to stand

Chona gathered the baby's linen blanket from the clothesline, hastily wrapped Shiela Mae, and rushed to town. As much as she wanted to bring her eldest daughter Marichu, she decided not to. Their 14-year-old would rather sleep, especially after eating a hearty meal.

Intermittent rumblings

Except for the heavy rains, the weather was generally tolerable. But the intermittent rumblings coming from the mountains refused to stop, not even for a second.

Similar to the previous days, this day was hectic, what with farm chores, school and household work. Towards noon a nearby women's celebration had picked up with rousing merriment. The venue was uncharacteristically crowded, Bolasco remembers, and he squeezed himself in for some space. Although Bolasco felt spooked by the sounds coming from the mountains, he dismissed them as nothing to be alarmed about.

The program continued. Later, the earth shook like it was sifting Guinsaugon in a large metal pan. Bolasco recalls how he looked up at the sky to see if the weather would improve. Instead, he saw broad patches of grey smoke covering it. Thick brown mud rushed from the shoulders of the mountain to its mid-section, instantly forming a huge canal, then mud waves spilled toward the village. "Instinctively, I scampered to safety," he recounts. "I was shocked to see house-sized boul-

To page 4

Bliss with passion defines Aurora Pijuan

by Agnes Prieto
photographs by August de la Cruz

The former beauty queen has long overcome the limitations of perception and her controversial first marriage by becoming her own person. Now, it is this cool *lola*'s mission to help others, while caring for her growing brood

Destiny: As Miss International 1970

AURORA Mckenny Pijuan ex Manotoc ex Cleveland is talking at her customary 150 miles per hour. True to form, she has asked this interviewer to bring along a tape recorder. It is hard for most people to catch up with Au; she talks fast, moves swiftly, and can see at least five steps ahead. She has so much passion—enough to blow you out of your seat sometimes.

She is talking about being alone "It's destiny," she states quite matter-of-factly. It's not that she does not give a hoot about what people say—she is just sure of who she is, so clear about what she has to do. Sometimes the clarity can be so sharp, it makes other people uncomfortable.

"She is an honest, straightforward, no-nonsense person, not much for protocol, not impressed by positions, not intimidated by power, often misunderstood because she does not behave according to conventional expectations," says Tony Meloto, Gawad Kalinga founder and 2006 Ramon Magsaysay awardee for community leadership.

She's into the quiet life, despite having been in the limelight for 37 years. Mavis Fuentebella, Au's daughter, describes her mom as "by nature, an introvert, but she can actually surround herself with all kinds of friends when she feels like being an extrovert."

"I'm very happy for my mom now," says son TJ Manotoc, a TV host. "It was our fervent wish for her to find someone to grow old with, but as of now she's married to her causes, even if it makes her career and work take a back seat." When asked about "meaningful relationships," Au lets out a loud laugh. Although she's been linked to men, from heads of state and ambassadors to her dancing partner, Au is by herself, complete. Long after her divorce from Tommy Manotoc, Au married Bob Cleveland, an American businessman. By her own account, Bob was fazed by the fact that she could practically read his mind, and was uncomfortable with it. "I'm just intuitive, I guess, and I just talk on and on. Most times I don't remember what I say, but it seems I often hit home."

Being alone

She sometimes relates to the character in the song "The Fool on the Hill." "I love humanity, but I like being alone, although I don't do this to sulk or brood. Even in my most difficult years as a single parent, I never fell into victim mode. I just revel in my solitude." She has been a Zen practitioner for the past 15 years, and has been "growing in compassion," says Sister Sonia Punzalan, whom Au meditates with. "She is increasingly able to follow her bliss with passion." This is the compassion that has enabled her to reach out to the less fortunate and perhaps, added several dimensions to her being, so that she is definitely more than just a pretty face.

These are the sides of Au that most people don't get to see. What is evident is her *taray* (bitchy) and *kulit* (persistent) style. "I ask questions all the time, I clarify, but some people don't see it as a simple question—more as a third degree," she says with a laugh. "Put this together with my intense energy, my voice, and it's hard to find someone who will not be intimidated." Her work style reflects her high standards; for instance, she expects a reply to a text message ASAP, because she would reply quickly, too. In the end, she practically has to do everything herself.

The work ethic has been passed on to her kids. "Mom taught us hard work and perseverance," says TJ. "She was quite strict, at least compared to my friends' parents. She always reminded us that we have to deserve what we get. We were definitely not spoiled. It is a major part of what made me the hard worker that I am today."

Daughter Mavis, who is married to Jim Fuentebella, explains, "My mom is always on the run. She is very focused. Whatever it is she is into at the moment, it will consume her—she obsesses about it, whether it is the new investment instrument she is marketing or my brother's caterer for his wedding!"

She brings passion and skill to whatever she does, whether it be mothering (and now grandmothering), pushing alternative health practices and products, running for mayor of Makati, marketing high-end real estate, or putting together financial investment packages. However, her greatest passion is to make justice more than just a noble-sounding word, and get it down to the ground, because Au is no airy fairy. As old friend Ofel Santos says, "Au is grounded, with wings."

Cemetery community

She tells the story of how she once slept in a cemetery. "The Makati cemetery had a small squatter community, and I had friends and supporters there when I was running for Makati mayor. One day they came to me complaining that they were being evicted, so I told them that whoever was doing that needed to show some legal documents. They expected the men to make another sweep of the place, and it could happen in the evening. They wanted me to make my presence felt, and the only way I could help them was to drive into the place that evening and await their fate with them. At some point, during the watch, I fell asleep in the car, but the barangay officials knew they would have to contend with me."

She discovered she had an affinity for public service because of former senator Eva Estrada Kalaw, mother of Au's sister-in-law, Chingbee. She was supposed to be at Plaza Miranda when it was bombed, she relates. "I was pregnant with Mavis, and they had given us the wrong time, so I was still at home getting ready. It was from the TV that I found out what I had narrowly missed."

These days she is a staunch Gawad Kalinga advocate, and how it happened is classic Au Pijuan. "I was watching a dog show on TV, and gosh! How some people can spend on a dog! Some people would think nothing of shelling out as much as $10,000 for a Hermes bag, and lining up months for it. But you can't blame the rich; they can't really relate to poverty or hunger. I like these Immersion Programs that schools like Ateneo are now espousing. Your kids learn to become '*barkada*' with the poor, and they get to realize that not everyone has a P5,000 weekly allowance."

After hearing about Gawad Kalinga, Au sent word that she was interested in helping, but it was not until Tony Meloto himself asked her, "Are you willing to be poor?" that things started moving.

As a GK advocate, Au goes around the world talking to Filipino communities and inviting them to participate in helping support GK partner villages. Her main focus is the Visayas (where she comes from), and she is working on a launch to draw support for the project, a version of the old Kahirup ball where everyone came dressed to the nines, but for a good cause.

Her work with Gawad Kalinga is a choice, she says. Winning the Ms. International competition 37 years ago, the first Filipina to ever win the title, was destiny. She recalls that it was Tommy Manotoc, then her boyfriend, who registered her as a participant, egged on by couturiers like Pitoy Moreno. Au was then a Math major at Maryknoll (now Miriam) College and never thought of herself as a beauty queen.

"I'm not ugly, but a beauty queen—that never entered my mind. And when I went on to the pageant, beauty had no point of reference, everyone was beautiful. I never considered myself in the running, so I was not anxious or worried. But when the judges started spending a lot of time with me, there were whispered rumors of my winning. Then I won, and I was too flabbergasted to even cry."

Gutsy determination

She would need her gutsy determination and analytical mind when Tommy Manotoc, then her estranged husband, disappeared shortly after it was discovered that he had married the President's daughter, Imee Marcos. There had been a quickie divorce, as Au would discover later, but she and Tommy had remained friends.

"In fact, the day he disappeared, we were at a *despedida* for Billy Manotoc, my brother-in-law. I had told Tommy that I had spare ribs and could drop off some for him. He was staying then at his parents' place in San Lorenzo. When I came in at lunch, everyone was at the table looking nervous, and some looked zonked out on tranquilizers. Tommy had disappeared."

Au asked for advice from her foreign correspondent friends, and they encouraged her to call a press conference, since the local press was muzzled. After 40 days, Tommy surfaced, but not before Au had talked to writer Adrian Cristobal, asking for an audience with President Marcos.

"Adrian came back to me to say that Marcos had said, 'I have reluctant respect for that girl,' and to expect something good to happen." When Tommy came back, Au disappeared for a while. "I did not want to be photographed with him, because there would have been talk that we were getting back together. I would have done it for anyone."

Au says that one of the few times she was angry at Tommy was when the kids would celebrate their birthdays without any word from him. "Not even a card. And they would wait and wait—isn't he coming? Isn't he going to call? That would tear at my heart. My children's pain is my pain, and more."

All's well that ends well, though; the weekend of this interview, TJ, Mavis and their families were with Tommy in Calatagan for Tommy's birthday. Au's in-laws give her credit for keeping bonds intact, bearing the brunt of being a single parent, but still making the kids feel that they had a dad.

Strong front

When asked to describe her mom during those years, "tough" is the first word that comes to Mavis' mind. "That's how I perceived my mom when I was growing up. Now that I am a mother myself, I have gained a different perspective. I realize she had to be that way, being a single parent and all. She had to put up a strong front to shield us."

Au looks back to that period as the most difficult in her life. But she never felt like a "victim," she says. "There was always a solution to everything. I have this gift to see things in their totality, so I know *kahit maglabandera ako* (even if I have to work as a laundrywoman), I can see the situation through."

Au's voice arcs in delight as she fishes out a photo of her grandchildren Mica and Diego. "She's very *kilig* as a *lola*," says TJ, who is married to Rio Chipeco.

"She loves every minute that she's with her *apos*. But she doesn't intend to spoil them, even though that's supposedly the role of most grandparents." Mavis agrees. "Oh, she is great fun. You will see her rolling on the floor or dancing with her *apos* for a good laugh."

Although she describes herself as a loner, Au has a vast network of friends and acquaintances. "From what I know, even though she does not have a regular *barkada*, she has so many friends, from big-time politicians, media personalities and businessmen, to nuns, priests and meditators," TJ says.

"Au is totally sincere. And when she says she is there for you, she is, 100

To page 7

Tough love: Au with (left to right) daughter Mavis and husband Jun Fuentebella, grandkids Diego and Mica, son TJ and wife Rio Chipeco, and TJ's adopted son Ian

by Joy Rojas
photographs by August de la Cruz

For this young beauty guru, the best beautifier is a good attitude

Model-turned-beauty editor and self-confessed product junkie Cat Juan is only too happy to share her expert opinion on the stuff that's on the market. But her message remains the same: Embrace the unique features you were born with

WHEN Caterina Juan was 15, her mother, fitness guru Tina Aboitiz Juan, took her eldest child and only daughter to the cosmetics section of a department store, where the teenager underwent her first-ever makeup lesson from the lady behind the Prescriptives counter. It was a defining moment for the skinny, self-conscious kid, who had never worn makeup before, and was plagued with pimples and extremely oily skin from the time she was 9. When the makeup session was over, Cat looked into the mirror and liked what she saw.

"It changed me, so it was a milestone in that sense," recalls Cat today. "When you're growing up, you get called a lot of names by kids and it makes you feel very unattractive. I guess that's what I like about beauty products. Besides their smells, textures, colors, hype and marketing, somehow using the right lotion or finding the right shade of lipstick just makes you feel good, gives an added perk to your day. I think a lot of women like to feel that. I'm one of them."

She certainly is. Since that fateful day at the Prescriptives counter, Cat has become a self-confessed and unapologetic product junkie. "To the max. Once it was allowed and unleashed, there was no stopping it," says the 26-year-old, whose makeup style is more enhancing than over-the-top.

Bare essentials

"I always say that when it comes to fashion and you look through my closet, you'll see the bare essentials. But when it comes to beauty, my bathroom is swimming in products galore. It's the mecca."

Putting on her daily face involves applying a concealer ("One of my favorite products"), tinted moisturizer with sunblock, a splash of blush and gloss, and eye shadow colors that depend on the occasion and her mood. As for maintenance, she swears by cleansers and toners with salicylic acid, has a manicure and pedicure twice a month ("We can't cut and clean our nails better than another person") and will visit her dermatologist for the occasional facial or pimple treatment.

Junkie that she is, however, Cat isn't a slave to products—at least not to the ones that turn you into something you're not.

"I don't like the idea of a product telling me that if you don't look a certain way, you're not beautiful," says Cat who, as glossy lifestyle mag Metro's new associate beauty editor, also jokingly refers to herself as the "anti-whitening editor."

"I've always discouraged girls from thinking that the Filipina has to have long straight black hair, porcelain skin and a skinny body. I prefer that people accentuate, or even appreciate, the little differences in their features that might not be considered the standard of beauty."

Cat, who majored in psychology at San Beda College Alabang, dreamed of becoming a counselor someday. As beauty editor, it's clear that she's stuck to the goal. "I'm fortunate enough to be working in media where you have a voice to inform people about what's safe and what to stay away from," she says. "People have a lot of questions, and they listen, too, and I really have so much to share with the Filipina."

For instance, Cat believes Pinays would benefit from tinted moisturizers with sunblock, which could already double as a foundation "because we already have a nice dark base color." A good brand would be Laura Mercier. But lest you think all good beauty products have to be imported or will break the bank, "Ever Bilena has a really, really good eye liner that stays and stays, and is perfect for our humidity!" she adds.

Other aspects

Cat enjoys the other aspects of the job, as well; in the four months that she's been with Metro, Cat has flown to Tokyo, Japan, where she met Shu Uemura himself and watched the makeup master at work. Naturally, the product junkie has added to her stash of goodies—even after giving tons away.

"Thankfully, I've been blessed with a job where I'm given products to road-test," she says with a giggle. "But I'm very generous. Whenever people in the office ask if there are any bronzers around, I bring five."

Growing up, there was never any pressure for Cat or her 23-year-old brother Miguel, to pursue sports and fitness the way her dad Domingo, a distributor of gym equipment, or mom Tina did. Strangers, though, seem to expect it from them. "Are you as fit as your mom?" and "Do you eat healthy?" are among the questions they're usually asked. But Cat, who is into yoga, pilates, weights and zipping, and who indulges once in a while in her favorite salt and vinegar chips or dark chocolate bar, is proud of the association.

"She's stuck to her principles," says Cat of Tina, who continues to write a column for the Philippine Daily INQUIRER and Metro. "This is a woman who has declined all offers to endorse a product because she felt that if she ever wrote about it, people would think it's because she's paid to do it." Smiling, she realizes she's one of the few daughters "who's never had an issue with her mother. Ever. She was always so cool—liberated, yet very motherly. She was almost like a sister to me."

For a while, modeling was the career for Cat, whose skin had eventually cleared after three months of taking the doctor-prescribed Accutane. Approached by modeling scouts since she was in high school, it was only after college when she finally agreed to pose for model-turned-photographer Joanne Zapanta Andrada, who was putting an exhibit together. Joanne also submitted Cat's photos to Calcarrie's, the agency which represented Cat for two years until she moved to her current agency, Model Shop.

Opened doors

Modeling, in turn, opened doors to writing for glossy fashion magazines. Cat, whose articles have been seen in Lifestyle Asia, Seventeen, Young Star and Preview, was style and beauty editor for Philippine Tatler for six months. Two days after she left that post, she was being prepped for a modeling assignment when she learned that Metro was on the lookout for a beauty editor. "It's been a blessing ever since," she says with a smile.

You bet. Cat, who likes making jewelry for friends and playing with her dogs in her spare time, has been in a relationship with GamePlan host Paolo Soler for the past four years. "I could, but I'd prefer not to," she says with a laugh when asked if she could leave the house without a trace of makeup. "It just makes me feel better. And I think I look better. But my boyfriend prefers me without makeup on."

So do we.

Dreaming ...from page 3

ders raining toward Guinsaugon."

Bolasco cautioned an older brother, who was on his motorcycle at that time, to take cover, but the latter frantically continued to search for his wife. Before Bolasco could say another word, he lost sight of his brother. Then he heard women's voices, pleading with others to help them look for their children. But the morning classes were midway and the roads to the school were blocked, making any means of assistance impossible.

Bolasco recalls how he must have taken 20 steps towards the residence of Osting Nabus to escape the mud waves. As soon as he got in, he dropped to the floor face down, suddenly feeling the warm, heavy rush of mud over his body.

"We were helpless," he recalls. "I was terrified. I didn't have time to go back home to check on the others."

Bolasco remembers that he lost consciousness for several hours. His body was turned over to the medics in Sitio Budloy, where he was thoroughly examined by paramedics. They relayed to him how he was found covered in mud and blood, submerged among piles of the living and the dead. His head had deep, open cuts, and the bones of his left rib cage were misaligned. The doctor advised him to undergo a brain scan.

The scan found a variety of substances embedded in his wounds, including powdered glass and sand particles. Mud had dried up inside his left ear. He underwent several psychological debriefings, but Bolasco says he coped quickly, by uttering Psalm 90 loudly each time he got depressed.

"Yes, I have had sleepless nights moaning in my dreams, but my case is similar to those suffering from bouts of depression," he says. "The doctors assured us these are normal in people bearing the intense pain of loss. The long nights at the center are times of desolation. When I hear the others cry, I go deep into prayer, seeking solace from the Almighty. It helps that I read the Holy Bible."

Asked if he misses home, and Bolasco taps his fingers uncomfortably. He speaks eloquently of Guinsaugon, particularly the family's almost seven hectares of farmland. The village's pasture land, he says, is vivid in his memory. He knows the bucolic landscape of his boyhood has become a desert, but he believes life continues to unfold, and dreams of a time when he can "reconnect" to Guinsaugon.

There are times when Bolasco doesn't see a very bright future for himself and his family. He is worried about delays in relief assistance, particularly the housing programs that various sectors have promised them. "I wish the rumors we have heard that some local government officials are not telling us the truth are only rumors," he says wistfully.

Bolasco, the son of a farmer and a homemaker who themselves called Guinsaugon home, dreams of returning home. He wants daughter Shiela Mae to tread on the soil of her origins. He longs to unroll his mat on the bamboo floor of his house, like he used to. "Even if it's just a hut near the boulders, as long as I am home again."

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Kristin ...from page 1

Goodwill ambassador: Showing off her gallery of historic moments in Fil-Am relations

If she's bubbling over like an excited schoolgirl, blame it on her job, her second posting as ambassador which, Kenney describes, is fun. "The Philippines is very special to us because of our long history and close relationship. We've been partners for a long time and that's why I feel I can do some good, make a real difference in my job."

And she's working with a wonderful team, Kenney enthuses, some 500 Americans and 1,000 Filipinos in the US Embassy in Manila, one of the largest in the world. "Filipinos are very warm and friendly and so much fun!" she observes.

Naturally friendly

The same might be said of the 51-year-old diplomat who describes herself as "naturally friendly."

The US Embassy website is chockfull of pictures of the slim and smiling Kenney hugging veterans during Bataan Day, visiting call centers, interacting with Muslim women from Mindanao, personally handing out a US donation for a campaign against human trafficking, and surrounded by elfin-faced children in schools in Sulu, Taguig and Tondo.

Extremely photogenic, the ambassador seems very comfortable with the camera, posing gamely and effortlessly for this cover pictorial.

"That's not surprising," reveals Deputy Press Attaché Stacy MacTaggert. When she was in her teens, Kenney used to do ramp modeling for a department store in the Washington D.C. area where she grew up, says MacTaggert.

Even so, the practiced ease and benefactor role highlighted by the photographs have raised some questions among US bashers: Is the United States, seen by detractors as the bully of the world for its incursions into Iraq and its hardline stance against terrorism, angling for a softer image in Kenney? Is that why it finally appointed a female envoy to the Philippines, who is said to be US Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice's personal choice?

"Well, it's very appropriate, don't you think?" says Kenney of her gender-based distinction. "You've had two women presidents, so many successful women business executives, your newspapers are run by women editors, your NGOs are led by women... Your women leaders are just so dynamic!"

And then again, so many women are experienced diplomats and are just as qualified as the men, muses Kenney, whose first and most recent posting was as ambassador to Ecuador.

She might as well be speaking of herself.

A career diplomat, Kenney began her career in 1981 at the US Embassy in Jamaica. The Virginia native was at one time an economic counselor in Geneva and an economic officer in Argentina. She was also a member of the National Security Council staff at the White House under President Clinton, and served as executive secretary of the State Department under Secretary Margaret Albright.

As US ambassador to the Philippines, she intends to build bridges between the two countries, says Kenney. "I'd concentrate on making peace and creating wealth because making your country peaceful and prosperous is good for the US, as well. I want to look for ways to make conditions better for all of us. I'd be very happy if, at the end of my term, I would have made both of our countries safer, created more jobs and reached out to the next generation."

Diplomacy as reaching out

Going out there to meet people is a good way to start, she adds. "Secretary Rice defines today's diplomacy as reaching out instead of just sitting in one's office. It's very inspiring to meet people. They remind me that I have to keep working. It's also a good opportunity to experience Philippine culture first-hand."

One of her priorities, she says, is "to pay attention to the victims of terrorism and trafficking and focus on how we can protect them." Kenney recalls how she visited Jolo a few weeks after a bomb shattered the marketplace in March this year. "I went down and imagined how the bombing must have affected ordinary folk. I imagined that a lot of women would have been around to do their marketing, and probably, they brought their children along..."

The concern for the rights of young victims appears to be genuine, notes Cecil Oebanda, president of the Visayan Forum Foundation (VFF), a non-government organization recently given a $179,000 US grant for its anti-human trafficking campaign. The grant is meant to expand the number of VFF halfway houses that shelter trafficking survivors.

Recalls Oebanda of Kenney's visit to the group in June: "What really struck me with this new ambassador was how sensitive she is to child rights issues and to the situation of the women and children sheltered in the center. Before going to the place, she gave strong instructions that no media should be allowed to cover her interaction with the women and children because she learned that most of the survivors have existing cases and she didn't want to jeopardize their identity. Honestly, it surprised me."

The ambassador's interest in children, particularly their education, stems from her personal background.

The daughter and granddaughter of schoolteachers, Kenney remembers her mother saying, "If you can read, then you can make so much of your life." Her mother taught English, she says, "not a high-paying job, but very rewarding."

In fact, Kenney adds, her mother would have wanted her to be a teacher herself so she could work closer to home. "But I have no patience for the job. My interest lay in what was happening in the rest of the world, and so was my father's. So of course my mother blames him for my not being a teacher!" she says with a laugh.

Like a teacher

But Kenney apparently thinks like one. "Children are the hope of the future, she declares, recalling her visit to a school in Sulu where, "10 minutes after getting on a computer, you see these kids just flying through websites!" The US, she says, is partnering with the private sector to provide Internet access to public schools.

The ambassador likewise has a soft spot for veterans. "My father and father-in-law were both veterans of World War II, while my grandfather was a veteran of the first world war," reveals Kenney. "And they were all very proud of it."

Being exposed to such pride in service to country as well as growing up in the Washington D.C. area, where patriotism is like a virus, gave Kenney enough impetus to enter the diplomatic service.

She obtained a bachelor's degree in political science from Clemson University and a master's in Latin Studies from Tulane University.

Years later, while working in the office of Secretary of State George Schulz, she met fellow diplomat William R. Brownfield and later married him. "We made history as the first husband and wife ambassadors who are both on their second posting," she says of her husband, currently the US Ambassador to Venezuela.

20th anniversary

The couple recently celebrated their 20th anniversary, which again reminded Kenney of how distance is the biggest problem in their personal partnership. "I called to greet him, but one of his staff said, 'So sorry, Ma'am, but he is having breakfast and cannot be disturbed.' I said, 'I'm sure he'll talk to me, please get him for me.'"

The couple has no children. "Well, you take what life gives you," shrugs Kenney. "But we have three cats and they travel everywhere with us," she says of Emily, Junior and Niles, whom they had rescued from a shelter. She would have loved to have dogs, too, but they need more attention, she adds. Not surprisingly, the last movie she watched on DVD is "Must Love Dogs."

The ambassador apparently has a positive spin on everything, even touchy issues in the political landmine that is the Philippine-American relations.

Hardest part

On the Subic rape case that involves 22-year-old "Nicole" and several US Marines: "I think the case is proceeding as it should, with Filipino judges and lawyers, inside Philippine courts. The Philippines and the US both have a strong legal system, where the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty. The hardest part is knowing that everyone involved has a family and that they are suffering as well. The best thing we can hope for is a fair trial that concludes very speedily so we can move on with our lives."

On terrorism and the proxy war that has American soldiers conducting military exercises in the country: "We want to continue being strong partners in trade policies and the military. The security measures will benefit all of us. But we'd also like to focus on the victims and the areas where we can help.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF US EMBASSY

With Visayas Forum Foundation Executive Director Cecil Oebanda after signing a grant for anti-trafficking activities (left), and getting into the groove with schoolkids from Tondo

Casual but in control: Kenney is no stand-on-ceremony envoy

"We'd like to balance military protection with development, health and education. They should all go hand in hand. That's why we have the US Ship of Mercy to bring medical care and education to the people. We're also working at promoting an exchange program among students of both countries."

Filipino veterans

On Filipino veterans and their long drawn-out battle to get benefits for their role in the second world war: "That is an issue that has to be decided by the Congress in my country. But we're very proud of their service and in fact, the United States sets aside $15 million a month for veterans in this country."

On US aid: "We're looking to expand agricultural assistance on more practical areas like farm to market roads, improved quality of production, agricultural scholarships, and so on. People from the agriculture sector must have alternatives other than violence."

On intellectual property rights: "The problem is much bigger than just the piracy of VCDs and DVDs. It also involves fake drugs and medication. Solving it means looking at the problem at its roots. Is there adequate police capacity to conduct raids? Is there a judicial system in place? You must remember that this is a key issue to making the Philippines attractive to investors who are spending a lot on research and development."

On being assigned to the Philippines: "This is an easy place to live in. Filipinos are very warm and friendly. I feel so energized to be here. As for those infamous monsoons, I guess all those rains have kept everything green!"

Vibrant democracy

On Charter Change: "That is something that Filipinos should decide for themselves. The Philippines is a vibrant democracy, and it is your decision to demand what model works for you. Our relationship with the Philippines is superb and will remain so, regardless of what charter you adopt. We're a fellow democracy, whatever the process involved. We share the same language of democracy."

On President Arroyo and calls for her to resign or be impeached: "She is the President of the Philippines and a colleague and friend of our President. We have excellent relations and it's going to stay that way."

But treading lightly on the combustible issues that bedevil Fil-Am relations is not the greatest challenge she faces in her job, reveals Kenney. "So much needs to be done and there's just not enough hours in a day," she sighs. It's particularly difficult, she says, because she has no discipline when it comes to budgeting her time. "I like to meet a lot of people and talk with them so sometimes I wind up with, say, 10 minutes for lunch? It seems there's just never enough time for the things you want to do."

'So much diversity'

It is the same problem that prevents the ambassador from thoroughly exploring the Philippines just yet. "So much diversity!" she marvels. Younger brother John, an electrical engineer, has had better luck; he's found time to climb a mountain the last time he visited, adds Kenney.

But she's not one to mope. She's gone to Mindanao and Baguio, Kenney says, but the beaches are still on her agenda—just as soon as she finishes reading the Katherine Graham biography, "Personal History" which, her husband teases, seems to be turning out to be a two-year project.

In the meantime, there's always the sunset and the view of the Manila Bay to savor. So much fun!

LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

I was so happy and scared at the same time. I knew that everything was not right, but I'm torn between two people I love

Giving someone up to make things right

Dear Joe,

Jeff has been my boyfriend for two years now. He's thoughtful, understanding and sweet. But what reeled me in was his wit and intelligence. We were almost a picture-perfect couple.

Much to my surprise, our relationship became an on-again, off-again affair when I started working for this prestigious firm in Quezon City. I admit that since I started working, I was spending less and less time with him. He kept telling me I had to choose between him and my job. Whenever I spent time with my friends, he would always tell me that I loved my friends more than him, something I always denied.

I wondered if he was just being demanding or selfish. I just wanted some understanding on his part.

I attempted to dump him thrice, but he always came back. I took him back because I believed that he would change. But months later, things were still the same. He got even worse. And yet despite all that, I still wanted to be with him.

To top it off, an old friend of mine, Rey, resurfaced in my life. We were classmates in high school, and I had an intense crush on him. I found out later that he was in love with me but never showed it, and so we never went beyond friendship. We separated after our graduation, and on my 18th birthday I learned that he already had a girlfriend.

Four years passed since we last saw each other. We became good friends again through text messaging. I was with him when he and his girlfriend broke up. We agreed to see each other, and he cameto Manila to be with me.

Jeff had no knowledge of this. I knew it was wrong, but I was so excited to see Rey. I hate to admit it, but I still love him.

I forgot I had a boyfriend. Rey knows about Jeff. Still, we were trying to make things right, and I hated to see him leave. Before we said goodbye, he told me he loved me and kissed my hand. I was so happy and scared that I started crying. I knew that everything was not right, but I'm torn between two people I love. I can't let go of either Jeff or Rey.

Rhine

Dear Rhine,

I know how difficult it is to find ourselves in a situation where we seem to be caught between two people we believe we both love. Can it really happen? Well, I guess the answer is yes. This is why many relationships fail. Sometimes it is not falling out of love, but falling in love with someone else that makes it difficult.

Rhine, this could have been easier if there was nothing wrong in being in two relationships at the same time. But the fact of the matter is, even if we are in love with two people, we have to be committed to just one. And commitment means giving up the other for the sake of the one we choose.

The essence of a relationship lies in the fact that we choose to be with someone we love and that we will love only the one we choose. I would believe you when you say that you are in love with two people, but I would also want you to believe that you cannot love them both with the same intensity and passion. If you listen carefully to your heart, you will realize that there is just one who deserves your love and commitment. And that person is the one you should be with.

I know it is easier said than done, but you just can't say you love someone if you cannot let go of the other. The hardest part of loving is when we have to make a choice that would hurt those who love us. But sometimes that choice has to be made because that is the only sensible thing to do. You cannot love Rey and Jeff at the same time. You have to make your choice and live by it.

Let us always remember that we can love as many people as we want to but we have to commit ourselves to just one. Just one, to whom we will faithfully dedicate our whole life and with whom we will build our dreams. Just one, whom we will love like we have loved no other.

LoveNotes is heard every Friday at 10:15 a.m. with replays at 7 p.m. on Wave 89.1 FM. Get your daily love quotes from Joe D' Mango via SMS by texting ON DEARJOE to 2968. Visit the official Lovenotes website at www.lovenotes.fm

Pinoy Ngaa!

by Jess Abrera

Nakapulot

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

							1	
4			6		1			
		5	3	2		7		
	8					3	2	
		2		5		1		
	4	6					5	
		8		7	3	5		
			8		6			9
	6							

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 8/13

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Answer to previous puzzle

4	3	5	6	1	2	9	7	8
2	9	8	7	3	5	6	4	1
6	1	7	4	9	8	5	2	3
7	5	9	3	4	1	2	8	6
8	6	2	9	5	7	3	1	4
1	4	3	8	2	6	7	5	9
5	8	1	2	6	3	4	9	7
3	2	4	1	7	9	8	6	5
9	7	6	5	8	4	1	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/12

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Motherhood ...from page 4

percent," says Ofelia Santos, a long-time chum. To illustrate, Ofel tells of the time when Au was helping cancer patients at a wellness seminar. "The requirement was for 12 bottles of beet juice, and she really went through the trouble of buying the beets, juicing, bottling and delivering them."

"Amigas Para Siempre" is a song she played for me as she drove me to my son's wake. Au can be counted upon to be there when one needs a friend, in times when one needs a reassuring squeeze of the hand; just to see her tall, elegant figure in a crowd is comforting.

What other people have come to see is a still beautiful woman who has not faded into oblivion, but continues to grow, shine and inspire. When asked what she feels her mission is, Au says it is "to inspire. I guess that should be everyone's mission, *di ba?* The only legacy I would like to leave my children is what I am doing now. I will never retire; there is always one more dream to fulfill." TJ sums it all up succinctly when he describes his mom: "There are no words to encompass who she is. She is in a class all her own."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, August 13, 2006

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:

1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
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Channel	5:00PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Rinisode TV		PBA					Telenovela		Philippine Idol					Sunday Family Cinema	
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song Ang Soundtrack Ng Love Ko	Lovespell		The Buzz		TV Patrol World	Goin' Bulilit	Rated K		Sharon		U Can Dance					
AXN		Stuart Little 2			E Buzz / Samsung Sports World	Worlds Apart			Fear Factor (Season VI)		The Mentalist		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 2)		CSI: NY (Season 2)	CSI: Miami (Season 4)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy Ami Yumi / The Powerpuff Girls	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien / Planet Sketch / Camp Lazlo / Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy / Courage The Cowardly Dog / Camp Lazlo	Robotboy	The Simpsons	Courage The Cowardly Dog		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		The Simpsons / Power Rangers Dino Thunder	The Batman / Gundam Seed Destiny	Power Rangers Dino Thunder / The Simpsons	Gundam Seed / The Break Show	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force / The Batman
Cinema One				Bed Of Roses		Pangako Ikaw Lang					Ang Anak Ni Brodka			Sana Pag-ibig Na			
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport / Larry King Live	World News	World Sport	World News			World News	World Sport	Talk Asia		World News	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		L Detective	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Cold Case			Cold Case		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Surface	Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		How Do They Do It?	Building The Impossible	American Chopper	Building The Biggest	Mythbusters		Hour Asia			Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Crush Of The Century			Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Art Attack / Bily & Budoy	Totally Spies / Now Season V! 4	Kim Possible	Bunch, & Mr. Wrestler	Lilo & Stitch / Martin Mystery	American Dragon	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney				Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video / Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel			Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel						Little League World Series '06 Highlights		Winter X Games Classix	Winter X Games Classix / EA Community Shield 2006/07			
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Insider Weekend	Rated OK! 5 / American Dreams 2	One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 2			Crazy Eyes For The Skinny Guy		Project Runway 2		Nip/Tuck 3	Rated OK!	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blow Out 2		Today Show - 1 Hour Version / Dateline		Cold Turkey 2		NBC Nightly News	WSJR		Nanny 911		The Director		West Wing	NBC Nightly News	Hollywood Uncovered
EWTN	Defending Life	Chapel Of Mercy / Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother America / Octavia Dies	Rome Reports		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary		Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life is Worth Living	The Abundant Life
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heart and Will / John Kasich	Big Story Weekend Edition		Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday							Fox News Live		
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files		Mahiwagang Bato		Pinoy Meals World			Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office
Hallmark Channel		Edge Of America			From The Head Of Jos Of Mrs. Bridge / Frankweiler			Just Cause			Rocketman		Olmotopia: The Virus	They Shoot Horses, Don't They (10:45PM)			
HBO	Entourage 06: Behind The Black (2:25 PM)	Caddyshack			Shark Tale	Miss Congeniality 2: Armed And Fabulous					New On The Big Screen In August	The Fugitive				Ellí (10:40PM)	
Hero TV	Machine Robo Rescue	Dear Boys	Demon Lord Dante	Baki The Grappler / EZ Shop	Zenki	Rockman	Peacemaker	Sorcerer Orphen	Baroni One	Babel II	Mars The Terminator! G3	Voltes V Evolution	Street Fighter OVA			Ragnarok	Demon Lord Dante / Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Ang Bating Hanap Mo?		Comedy Central	Premium Blend	Home Shopping Network / The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Home Shopping Network / Distraction	Banzai	My Final Say On Cha-Cha / American Dad	Family Guy	Pinoy Action Hits / WWE Smackdown			Ivo Ang Katotohanan / South Park	EL SHADDAI / Drawn Together	Crank Yankers / Fashion Trance	Dr Katz
Jack TV				Your Private Island	Fine Living Special / Homecoming	Bare Foot Contessa / Boiling Points		Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Specials		E! Entertainment Special		Chicago				
Lifestyle Network	Embellish This	DIY: Crafts	DIY: Jewelry Making			Room Raiders / Take 5	MYX Bandarito	Pimp My Ride / MYX News	Homewrecker / Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hot Chart		MYX Backtrax	MYX LOG
MTV Philippines																		
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown																
National Geographic		Volcano Eruption at Pinatubo		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments	Best of the Week: Zambezi - Force of Life / Voicing Super Volcanoes		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Amazing Moments	Mega Asia: 21 Wonders of Construction - 13: Tokyo			Best of the Week: Chinese Pool Binding		Nat Geo Investigates: Air Crash Investigation	Nat Geo Investigates: World of Investigation	
NBN		Tawang Bayan (Sining Ustiling)				Tinang Bayan (Live)		Congress in Action		The Working President	Under Construction		The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!	Special Events From Malacañang And Other Key Venues / The Day / WW Calling Zone	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Bagong Mga Sa Diyos Dayan	Ang Pagbubuyog	Net 25 Weekend Report	MVTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Bagong Sa Diyos Dayan			Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	Euromaxx	MVTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Nick's Cartoonified School Survival Guide / Fight Night 8	Just For Kicks	Catscratch / Avatar: Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom / Ang Lahat Ng Iboy Para Sa Iyo	Troilz	Spongebob Squarepants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101 / Working Girls	Nicks Dogassi-ted School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show / One Heart	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star / Groupee TV	Tumakas Ka Sa Mundong Malikhain
PBO																		
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels	Bongga Ka Star	Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka			Sunday Super Show					The Working Proud
RPN 9		Go! Power	Fisforama		Sure Hits / WWE Smackdown	JAG		Navy Nds		Without A Trace			Sunday's Big Event / Oras Ng Katotohanan		Gabay Al Aksyon			
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy	Sheperds Voice	New Life				Oras Ng Himala								
Solar Sports		World Pool 2006 Masters		World Pool 2006 Masters	World Pool 2006 Masters	World Pool 2006 Masters		USAB World Tour: USA vs. Lithuania					America's Last Line Of Defense / Dahilan Ay O. Masikato					
Sports Plus				Motoring Today	RM Scuba Diving / Nop! Tunervision	All Sizzle 400 Highlights		World Game					Rauxworld		The International Cup			
Star Movies				Urban Legend (3:50 PM)	The Sixth Sense								Racing Stripes			Charlie's Angels (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Office	Arrested Development	Kevin Hill		Travel Asia	The Apprentice	Theme Park Road Trip			Oprah Winfrey Show		Andrea Bocelli		Parkinson		Hollywood Shuffle / Oprah Winfrey Show	
Studio 23					Business Week Asia Exposed					V Spook Live		US Girls	Desperate Housewives		Chris Rock (10:15PM)	The Calling (10:45PM)		Angel

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

The Asimo Quiz Challenge: A battle of some of the brightest minds

HIGH school team representatives discussing the answer to the Asimo Question during the Asimo Quiz Challenge held on July 28 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

MANILA'S brightest minds participate at the elimination round of the Asimo Quiz Challenge.

IN LINE WITH ITS CELEBRATION of creative innovations in mobility, Honda organized the Asimo Quiz Challenge, a quiz bee that showcased some of the brightest high school students from different schools in Metro Manila.

A test of knowledge on science and technology, the quiz bee consisted of three rounds-True or False, Multiple Choice, and Direct Questions. Each round had five questions each, including one Asimo question.

Several schools participated in the three elimination sets, including Paref-Southridge Academy, University of the Philippines Integrated School, Don Bosco Technical Institute, St. Augustine International School, and Lourdes School of Mandaluyong.

Among the 14 schools that participated, three winning teams emerged namely, Ateneo de Manila, Claret School of Quezon City, and Philippine Science High School.

Ateneo de Manila, which was represented by Edmund Soriano, Paolo Esquivel, and Carlo Felizardo, was the winning team for the first set. Garnering a total score of 140 points, the ADMU team qualified for the finals, followed by Paref-Southridge Academy and Quezon City Science High School.

The second set was won by Claret School of Quezon City, which was represented by Jose Marie Flores, Gemmo Fernandez, and Jerome de Guzman. The CSQC team wowed the judges with a perfect score of 150 points for the entire quiz set, immediately qualifying for the final round. Following them in the second and third places were Manila Science High School and University of the Philippines Integrated School, respectively.

Last but not the least in the line-up of winners was Philippine Science High School. Represented by Ivan Clement, Neil Miranda, and Hopee Sagayaga, the PSHS team won the eliminations round with a score of 125 points. Don Bosco Makati and OB Montessori earned second and third places in this set.

The line-up of finalists that has emerged from the roster of contenders battled it out for the grand prize at the Asimo Quiz Challenge Battle of Champions last Aug. 6 at the Honda World 2006 at the Glorietta Activity Center.

ASIMO Quiz Challenge participants are given tokens of appreciation.

QUIZ Challenge representatives from Ateneo de Manila beam as they are awarded winners of the first set of the Asimo Quiz Challenge.

METROBANK, GLOBE SIGN P3-B TERM LOAN FACILITY

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) and Globe Telecom recently signed a P3-billion five-year term loan facility to finance the telecom giant's capital expenditures and regular working capital requirements. Bulk of the loan proceeds will be used to roll-out the infrastructure for Globe's third-generation (3G) network. In photo during the signing of the agreement are (from left) Metrobank executive vice president and account management group head Vicente R. Cuna, Jr., Metrobank president Arthur V. Ty, Globe president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr., Globe chief financial officer Delfin C. Gonzalez, and Globe treasury division head Alberto M. de Larrazabal.

Convergys receives Lifetime Achievement Award

CUSTOMER INTER@CTION Solutions presented this year's Lifetime Achievement Award to Convergys Corp (NYSE:CVG) at the 21st Annual Top 50 Teleservices Agencies & MVP Quality Awards Dinner in New York. From 2000 to 2005, the magazine recognized Convergys annually with six consecutive Gold MVP Quality Awards.

"Bringing great respect and legitimacy to the customer care industry through true leadership and outstanding performance, quality of service, professionalism, and integrity over the past 25 years." was how Customer Inter@ction Solutions Magazine described Convergys Corp as it awarded the Cincinnati-based company a Lifetime Achievement Award.

"It's been a true pleasure to witness the positive impact that Convergys has had on the growth and advancement of the customer care industry over the past quarter century," said Nadji Tehrani, founder, chair and CEO of Technology Marketing Corporation. "The superb management team at Convergys has skillfully applied the specialized knowledge, experience, and expertise of its customer care professionals to recommend, develop, and deliver solutions that have benefited its clients and their customers around the world. We expect to see Convergys lead and innovate in the customer care market for years to come."

Nadji also cited Convergys' leadership in establishing a network of company-owned contact centers around the world, including India and the Philippines, and Convergys' development and use of self-service applications like speech and agent assist technology that has enabled agents to quickly resolve customer inquiries on the first call.

"We are truly honored to receive this recognition," said Clint Streit, executive vice president of customer care operations at Convergys. "We at Convergys look forward to the next 25 years of developing and delivering efficient and effective customer care solutions and services to businesses that recognize how important customer care is to their growth and survival."

Customer Inter@ction Solutions is a monthly publication covering contact center products and services and sales and marketing techniques.

24-hour road assistance with BPI Family Drive Your Dream Auto Loan

BEING STRANDED IN THE middle of the road, whether at the dead of the night or right at the peak of rush hour, is a hassle. When such hitches occur, you start doubting whether driving your own car was a good idea at all. Not when you acquire it through BPI Family Savings Bank's Drive Your Dream Auto Loan.

With the BPI Family Savings Bank Drive Your Dream Auto Loan, you get to drive the car of your dreams with a worry-free driving assurance. Your Drive Your Dream Auto Loan comes with a free Emergency Car Care Package that offers 24-hour road assistance from Ibero Asistencia, the country's leading road assistance company and a subsidiary of Mapfre Asistencia, one of Europe's largest insurance and assistance conglomerates.

The Emergency Car Care Package gives you vehicle assistance like towing in the event of a breakdown of up to P4,000 worth of service. It can even provide you with minor on-site repairs like battery boosting, jumpstart, tire changing, delivery of gasoline, and car lock-out. If you need your car to be removed using a crane, you can enjoy up to P8,000 worth of service.

The Emergency Car Care Package also includes personal assistance. If you are stranded and couldn't have your car repaired within 48 hours, you can book at the nearest hotel and your Emergency Car Care Package will take care of up to P1,000 hotel expenses for a maximum of two nights. It ensures that travel costs incurred to return a Drive Your Dream Auto Loan member to the usual place of residence are shouldered if the vehicle cannot be repaired within 48 hours.

You can get information like addresses and telephone numbers of hospitals within the geographical limits as well as contact details of accredited repair shops. If there's an urgent message that you want to be relayed, you can ask that transmission of such messages can be done in your behalf when a breakdown or accident occurs.

This free roadside assistance service is co-terminus with the loan term and coverage is limited to brand new cars only. For inquiries, please call Ibero at 752-2274.

BPI Family Savings Bank truly cares for you even after you acquire your loan. Drive Your Dream Auto Loan gives you a smooth ride to acquiring your dream car.

PLDT INKS AGREEMENT WITH PMA

PLDT recently signed an agreement with the Philippine Military Academy for the provisioning of high speed Internet Access to serve their various web-based applications and other relevant Information and Communication Technology requirements. Shown during the rites are, seated from left: PMA Superintendent Maj. Gen. Leopoldo L. Maligalig, AFP; PLDT SVP and corporate business group head Ernesto R. Alberto. Standing in the same order: CO-Academy Communications-Electronics and Information System Lt. Col. Joseph Villanueva; PMA Assistant Superintendent Brig. Gen. Nicomedes Corpuz Jr., AFP; PLDT senior relationship manager Jane L. Calilung and PLDT sales business head Conrad C. Reyes.

Avon Anew White Tea Party

IT WAS AN AFTERNOON OF tea, scones, and skin talk with Avon's Anew White Tea Party at the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The Inquirer attendees donned white sunbonnets, just like English ladies, while they enjoyed the break from their usual routine.

The tea party concept, a blending of East and West takes inspiration from Avon's newest skin care breakthrough from its Anew line, the Anew Alternative Intensive Whitening Treatment. East meets West for a whole new world in anti-aging and whitening. Anew combines exclusive pharmaceutical-inspired Anti-Glycation Technology with Eastern plant therapies to create this power product formulated to stimulate the skin's natural restorative ability to fight and help undo signs of aging and bring back skin's youthful fairness. Anew Alternative Intensive Whitening Treatment offers unprecedented technology as it visibly reduces fine lines and wrinkles, fades brown spots and restores whiter skin and minimizes sagging.

The women, and a few gentlemen, were thrilled to learn something new about their skin as they asked questions from the Avon executives and had a one-on-one consultation with the dermatologists present. Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot, beauty columnist Kinny Salas and entertainment editor Emmie Velarde were among those who joined the unique tea party hosted by Avon.

"We are very proud of this breakthrough product and we wanted to introduce Anew Alternative Intensive Whitening Treatment to our friends from the press in a special way," says Faith Aranton of Avon marketing and brand communications.

Dr. Ma. Theresa Tan Pascual, an accomplished physician and a technically and clinically proficient dermatologist, shared, "This has been a wonderful opportunity for Avon to present the naked facts about skin concerns, specifically anti-aging and whitening."

R&B PRINCE JAY R RENEWS CONTRACT WITH SUN

Sun Cellular, now with a bigger and better network, recently signed up R&B Prince Jay R to continue endorsing Sun's best value services, including the revolutionary 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited. He will continue to sing and dance to familiar tunes as a Sun Cellular endorser. In photo are (from left) Jay R's manager Arnold Vegafria, Jay R, Sun's AVP for prepaid marketing Ardie Balderrama and brand manager Jennie Cabugao. One of today's hottest young stars, Jay R has been constantly drawing crowds at concerts and guest appearances across the country. He has been the pioneer endorser for Sun Cellular, appearing in various commercials and print ads for the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited and Daylite Call and Text Unlimited. Jay R's fun, energetic, and warm persona has captured the hearts of his many fans, much like the way Sun has endeared itself to its ever-growing subscribers - making him a perfect fit for Sun Cellular.

SHOWN (from left) are DJ Crystal, Avon skin care's Madel Corona, beauty columnist Kinny Salas, Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot, and Faith Aranton of Avon marketing and brand communications.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME